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Let's knit

ISSUE 87 DEC 2014

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welcome to Let's knit

Meet the team...

DEPUTY EDITOR
Adrienne Chandler
adrienne.chandler@aceville.co.uk

This month...
I chatted to Naomi Turner, the co-founder of the successful knitted Plushi charity campaign (p72), and sourced 30 brilliant patterns for your bonus Winter Warmers booklet!

My favourite project...
Lilac Embrace (p24)

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This month...
I've been learning all about the fascinating world of Scandinavian knitting, and catching up with Arne & Carlos about their new book! Read all about it on page 61.

My favourite project...
Rhubarb (p16)

Check out our cropped sweater from Stylecraft on page 73 and visit your local yarn shop to stock up

Need to get in touch?

Pattern queries:
call 01206 508622 or email support@letsknit.co.uk

Advertising enquiries:
call Julie Freestone on 01206 505913 or email julie.freestone@aceville.co.uk

Subscription queries:
call 01795 414715 or email letsknit@servicehelpline.co.uk

Welcome to the December issue of Let's Knit. There are still a few weeks left before **the big day**, so plenty of time to tackle our **last-minute festive knits**. As well as our fabulous hooded scarf on page 24 we've got 30 **cosy accessory** patterns in our bonus Winter Warmers bonus booklet, all of which would make **great gifts**. There are lovely home ideas too, such as Julie Ferguson's stylish Fair Isle cushion on page 31, or, if you're after something a bit more **quirky**, Nicola Valiji's festive Russian dolls on page 69. And if you like a bit of **glitz** there's no better time of year to add some to your outfit! As well as Siân Brown's pretty gold bolero on page 13 we also have Charmaine Fletcher's shimmering scarf and clutch bag on page 65.

Your gift this issue is a fabulous Scandi-style yarn kit. You'll find six **exciting** ways to use it in your Winter Warmers booklet, and as ever we would love to see your creations – details of how to **get in touch** with us are on page 7. If you need a bit of help with the stranded knitting technique, Adrienne's **step-by-step** tutorial shows you everything you need to know. You'll find it on page 89.

Happy Christmas!

Sarah

sarah.neal@aceville.co.uk

If you're a fan of toy designer Val Pierce check out our exclusive interview on page 44 followed by her latest pattern, Leonard the polar bear.

Fill in our online yarn survey and you could win the stash of your dreams! There are £2,000 of prizes up for grabs – turn to page 30 to find out more.

Let's knit Loves

Spotty button pot (p28)

LK's Amy and Molly have been busy modelling hats this month. Find plenty more great accessories in our bonus Winter Warmers booklet.

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DISCLAIMER: We recommend that readers use the main specified yarn for every project as this will produce the best results. The alternatives given are suggestions only, and as no two yarns are exactly the same we advise readers to swatch an alternative yarn carefully before choosing to use it for their project. The publishers are not responsible for any safety issues arising from any items knitted from patterns contained within Let's Knit magazine. Prices are all correct at time of print.

Download hundreds of free knitting and crochet patterns today! www.letsknit.co.uk

Let's knit
DECEMBER 2014

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Who cares? ...We do!

At **Let's Knit** we understand that nothing is more annoying than errors in knitting patterns. As part of our total commitment to ensuring that your experience of our magazine is as enjoyable as possible, we're proud to offer **THE LET'S KNIT PATTERN PROMISE:**

- Exclusive patterns featured in Let's Knit have been professionally checked and reproduced with the utmost care. Updates can be found at www.letsknit.co.uk
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By email: support@letsknit.co.uk
By telephone: 01206 508622 (office hours only)
By post: at the address on page 95 (please mark your envelope 'Support')
(Please note we cannot offer assistance with patterns not published in Let's Knit)

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On-trend Scandi-style knits!

Find six patterns to make with your exclusive yarn kit in your bonus Winter Warmers pattern booklet!

Let's knit
Best for bonus gifts!

Extra Pattern!

Download the WYS hat & mitts pattern for free at **www.letsknit.co.uk**

Your YARN KIT

FAB FAIR ISLE!

These projects from Helen Ardley feature brilliant stranded colourwork designs – for tips and advice on this technique, read our tutorial on page 89. Find the patterns for these and 24 more brilliant bonus patterns in your Winter Warmers booklet.

Make&Share

We love seeing what our readers make with their yarn kits. Share them with us on Facebook and Twitter, or email **molly.todd@aceville.co.uk**.

Last month you loved knitting our Keepsake decorations!

Nicola Stevens

Louisa Saunders

IRISH BEAUTY

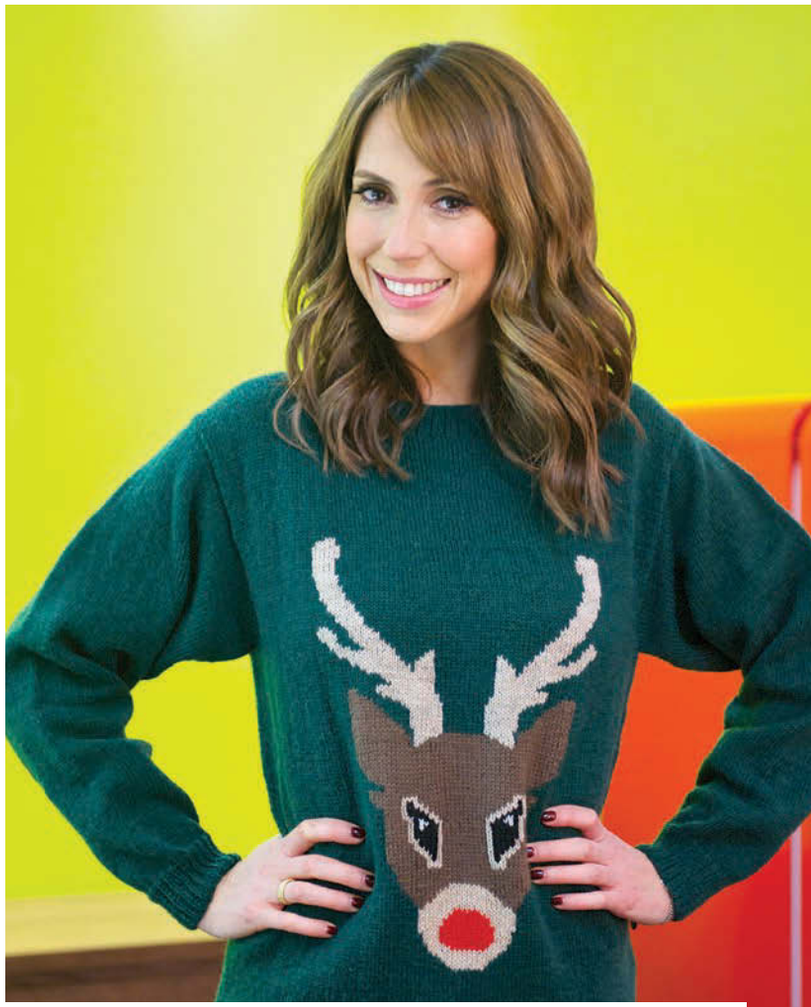
Unravel is a brand new company based in County Wexford in Ireland, which specialises in natural yarns and fashion accessory knitting kits. Launched at the Dublin Knitting & Stitching Show, the yarns use gorgeous Irish wool, as well as bouclé mohair and chenille cotton. Go to ***www.unravelknit.ie*** *to find out more!*

Let's knit LOVES...

OUR ROUND-UP OF WHAT'S HOT IN THE KNITTING UNIVERSE

Best of British

British Knitting Awards winner West Yorkshire Spinners has released six stunning new colours in its Bluefaced Leicester DK and Aran ranges. The quaint shades are a fantastic addition to one of the spinner's most popular yarns. Each 50g ball costs £4.85. **01535 664500, www.wyspinners.com**



Famous faces

With Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day taking place this month, we can't get enough festive sweaters! Novelty Knits (Kyle Books) is a brand new book full of quirky jumper designs chosen by Gyles Brandreth and his daughter Saethryd, and modelled by the family's famous friends! We love One Show presenter Alex Jones in her fantastic reindeer jumper, and you can download a Father Christmas sweater modelled by her co-star Matt Baker at www.letsknit.co.uk! For more information, contact **0207 692 7215, www.kylebooks.com**

BACK TO BASICS

Yarn Generation is the latest magazine from Bergere de France, and it's all about simple, accessible patterns to help new knitters get to grips with the craft. It's also great for those of us looking for easy, comforting projects during the winter months! Why not try this hooded poncho with a remarkably easy construction? The magazine costs £6.95, **www.cocoonknits.co.uk**

Did you know?

The largest knitted patchwork blanket was made for tsunami survivors in Japan earlier this year. With over 11,000 pieces, it measured 476m²!

Good Knight

Erika Knight for John Lewis is an exquisite new collection of pure wool yarns designed exclusively for the popular store. One 50g ball of DK costs £4.50, and each 100g ball of chunky or superchunky yarn costs £7.50. **03456 049049, www.johnlewis.com**

STORY TIME

Introducing Yarn Stories, the gorgeous new brand which was launched at the Knitting and Stitching Show in London. The beautiful Fine Merino yarn comes in DK and 4ply weights with patterns designed by some of the world's most talented knitting designers. **01484 848431, www.yarnstories.com**

CHARITY WE LOVE...

Children's Liver Disease Foundation

Frankie Brown is a knitting designer with over 200 free patterns available on Ravelry. All she asks for in exchange is a donation to the Children's Liver Disease Foundation, a charity which provides support for families and funds vital research. Her latest project is an advent gingerbread house. The main structure can be downloaded from Ravelry now, and Frankie will be releasing a new decoration pattern on every day of Advent until your gingerbread house is complete!

"I hope that it provides people with a fun, creative project for Advent whilst raising funds for a fantastic cause at the same time," said Frankie. Go to **www.ravelry.com/designers/frankie-brown** to download the patterns, and find out more about the charity at **www.childliverdisease.org**

LOSING OUR MARBLZ!

A good set of interchangeable needles is worth its weight in gold. You can use them for circular knitting, flat knitting and the magic-loop method. What's not to love? MarblZ is a colourful new interchangeables set from KnitPro which contains sizes 3.5mm-8mm, plus all your cords and stoppers. £69.98, **0117 300 5211, www.getknitted.com**

NOBLE FIBRES

Fall in love with the new Wonderland collection from Purl Alpaca Designs, including these pretty lacy wristwarmers called Rhea. Buy the pattern for £3.50 or the kit for £13. **01223 328739, www.purlalpacadesigns.com**

I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM!

There's nothing like luxuriously soft British Bluefaced Leicester wool, and Juey's new Handspun Ice Cream Chunky range is a thing to behold. The two colours twisted together create a brilliant effect, but be quick – each colourway is limited edition, so make sure you snap them up while you can! £8 per 100g skein. **www.juey.co.uk**

Download hundreds of free knitting and crochet patterns today! www.letsknit.co.uk

This Month's TOP BUY

This Buttonbag Knitting Kit by Crafts4Kids is the perfect present for a crafty boy or girl. With six balls of soft DK yarn, bamboo needles and easy-to-read patterns, your little one will be making their own woollen wonders in no time! If knitting isn't their thing, don't worry – Crafts4Kids has a great selection of kits for a range of creative endeavours, including a new Cross Stitch Kit. Prices start at £18.99 from **08456 804484, www.crafts4kids.co.uk**

Designed and knitted by Barbara Prime, mama bunny and her baby are all ready for the holidays! Find the pattern for both of these cute critters and more over at ***www.ravelry.com/designers/barbara-prime***

December IS THE MONTH...

...OF QUICK KNITS AND LAST MINUTE GIFTS!

This Month's TOP EVENT

Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day is back! Now in its third year, the charity is asking people across the UK to get involved, whether they're knitters, crocheters or just general crafters. Make or buy a festive sweater to wear on 12th December and donate £1-£2 to this fantastic cause. All money raised goes towards helping vulnerable children across the world, so it's a great opportunity to put your needles to good use. If you're stuck for ideas, Deramores have a pattern to download on their website!

Why not enter yours in our Christmas jumper competition on our Twitter and Facebook pages? For more details and to sign up for your fund-raising pack go to **www.christmasjumperday.org**

THIS MONTH *We're knitting*

Editorial assistant Molly has made this cute mock cable bobble hat! "This was my very first project, made using a gorgeous knit kit from The Mercerie. I made a lot of mistakes, but I learnt from all of them. My little brother even made a fluffy pompom to sew on top!"

DATES FOR *December*

14th November - 21st December
Manchester Christmas Markets, Manchester
www.christmasmarkets.com

27th November - 1st December
Bath Christmas Market, Bath Abbey
www.bathchristmasmarket.co.uk

4th-7th *Lincoln Christmas Market, Lincoln*
www.lincoln-christmasmarket.co.uk

11th-21st *Oxford Christmas Market, Oxford*
www.oxfordchristmasmarket.co.uk

12th *Christmas Jumper day, national*
www.christmasjumperday.org

3rd *Christmas Evening*
www.blacksheepwools.com

WE ASKED *our readers*

What's the best knitted Christmas present you've ever given someone? Let us know!

KAREN INGLIS
I knitted my whole family personalised Christmas stockings a few years ago. I spent nearly the whole summer making them!

PATRICIA MCGUIRE
I knitted the Sway table runner from Let's Knit 2013 for my friend. I turned it into a scarf. She loved it!

SALLY HIGHGATE-BETTS
I knitted three reindeer jumpers for gifts one Christmas!

Pick from the LK BLOG

What would Christmas be without the traditional Advent calendar? Over on the Let's Knit website, we've got one of our own! Check out **www.letsknit.co.uk** for exclusive pattern downloads, giveaways and discounts from your favourite brands. 'Tis the season!

MARTINE *makes*

GUERNSEY GIRL MARTINE IS A BLOGGER, TEACHER, KNITWEAR DESIGNER AND REMARKABLY AVERAGE UKULELE PLAYER. FIND OUT MORE ON HER POPULAR CREATIVE LIFESTYLE BLOG AND PODCAST, IMAKE AT WWW.IMAKEGSY.COM.

I love January: it's a fresh start, a chance for us all to do better in many ways. We resolve to get fit, lose weight, spend less, do more... For me, what this actually means is I resolve to have a really miserable January and feel like a complete failure by February, having broken every single one of my New Year's resolutions! So why not make resolutions that are fun and achievable? Why not make them all about knitting? Here are my suggestions!

Reclaim that yarn

Review your projects in progress and your hand-knitted garments. Is there anything you cannot see yourself finishing or wearing again? Honestly? If the answer is yes then rip it out – reclaim that yarn. Cast on something new. Most yarn is pretty resilient to unravelling – it might need to be gently soaked and re-skeined, but it's worth the effort, because that yarn can be knitted into a wonderful new project.

Bust that stash

To be clear, I'm not suggesting going "cold sheep". These resolutions are supposed to be fun! I love buying yarn as much as the next knitter, but perhaps now is a good time to review your stash and start trying to use some of it. Use a little of what you have before you buy new yarn. I must confess I have an embarrassing number of single skeins of sock yarn. A quick trawl on Ravelry reveals thousands of shawl patterns that match my "golden skeins" perfectly. A number of Martina Behm's patterns are designed to use up one skein of sock yarn; my favourite is Hitchhiker (left). Liz Abinante's Travelling Woman shawl (below) is also a great single skein option.

Quality over quantity

Rather than regularly treating yourself to inexpensive knitting goodies, why not start a knitting piggy bank this year and save up for top quality materials and tools? I've had my eye on a wooden ball winder from Nancy's Knit Knacks for years. They are handmade and will last a lifetime but they are therefore expensive. This is going to be the year I save up and get one!

At last, some New Year's resolutions that I am actually looking forward to keeping!

TTFN
Martine XOX

WHAT'S HOT ON THE LK WEBSITE

Do you like to crochet as well as knit, or just want try something new? Download the pattern for this easy crochet sweater free on the LK website! Made in a pretty blue yarn, this bold garment is sure to brighten up any dull winter's day.

Back issues from Jan 2011 onwards are available on the Let's Knit app! www.letsknit.co.uk

Pattern 9082

Pattern 9085

Pattern 9088

Carnival

chunky

Stylecraft

For your nearest stockist
telephone 01535 609798

Stay up-to-date www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk

EXCLUSIVE TO Let's knit

Golden Girl

Siân Brown's simple cardigan is the perfect finishing touch to party outfits

Whether it's your work do or a New Year's Eve bash, there's nothing more useful than a light cardigan for the chilly outdoors which can be quickly rolled up and stored in your bag. The back and fronts of this cardigan are worked in one piece on a circular needle right up until the armholes, so it will hug your shape perfectly. The whole thing is tied together with a bright pink ribbon, which is a great accent to the pale gold colour!

meet our **DESIGNER**

"This yarn has a lovely sparkle and is a bit heavier than the fine kid silk yarns, so good for a jacket. The cerise ribbon adds a bright contrast to the gold."

SIÂN BROWN

Measurements & Sizes

Dress size (approx):
8 (10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22)

To fit chest (cm):
81 (86, 92, 97, 102, 107, 112, 117)

Actual chest (cm):
90 (95, 100, 106, 112, 117, 121, 128)

Length to shoulder (cm):
45 (46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52)

Sleeve length (cm):
15 (15, 15, 15, 15, 15, 15, 15)

Knit Kit

Yarn: Rico Creative Reflection shade 02 Powder, 3 (3, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 5) 50g balls

Needles: 3.25mm straight, 3.25mm circular, 4mm circular, 4mm straight

Ribbon: pink, 2.5cm wide, 4m

Stitch holders

Tapestry needle

Tension Square

22 sts x 28 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
4mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Rico Creative Reflection is a glittery yarn made from 46% wool, 46% acrylic and 8% polyester. It's handwash only, so be sure to take good care of it.

Need an Alternative?

Rico Creative Reflection has quite a unique tension, so be sure to do a tension square before starting. However, for a fluffier cardigan, why not try **Drops Kid-Silk**? This light and airy yarn uses 75% mohair and 25% silk.

Let's Shop

Rico Creative Reflection costs £3.09 per 50g (240m) ball from **0191 567 3455, www.kempswoolshop.com**

Drops Kid-Silk costs £4.60 per 25g (200m) ball from **0800 505 3300, www.woolwarehouse.co.uk**

To get 10% off all orders at Wool Warehouse, turn to page 43

10% OFF!

Start knitting here

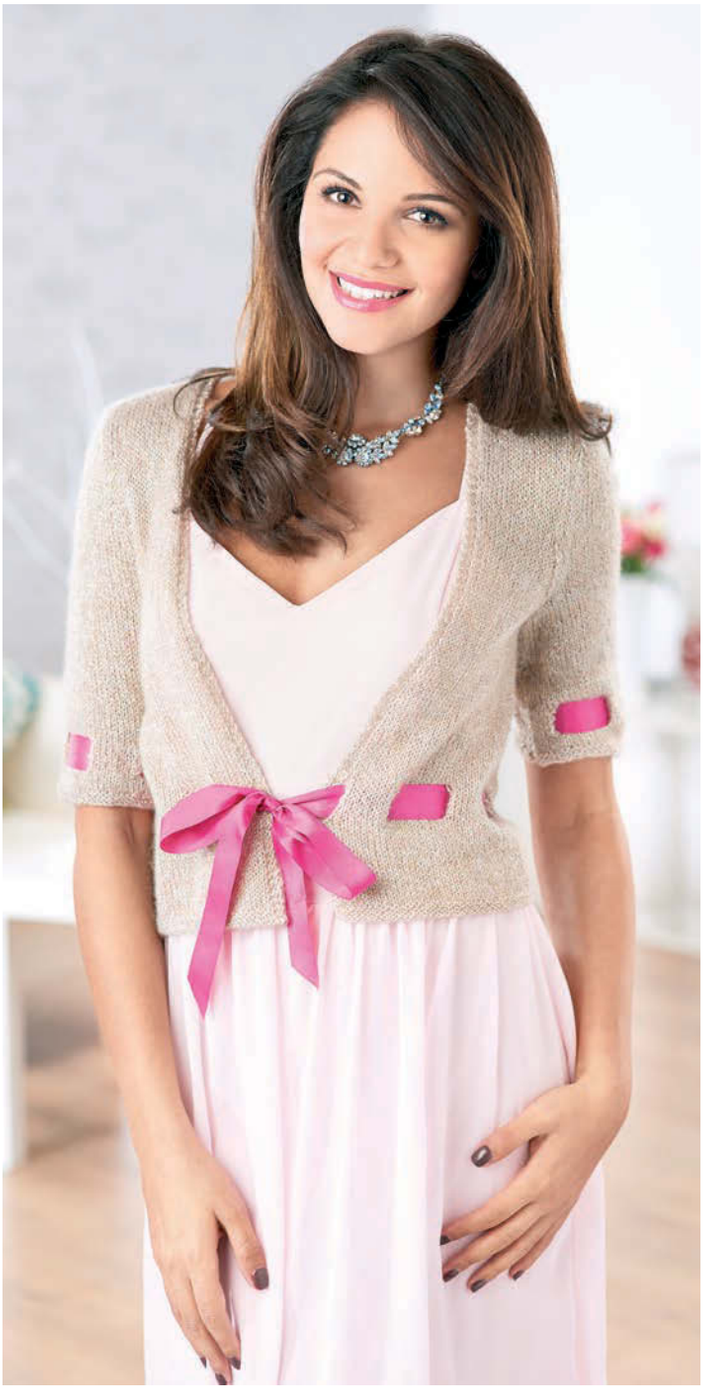
BODY

NOTE: Back and fronts worked in one piece to armholes

Using a 3.25mm circular needle, cast on 166 (176, 186, 196, 206, 216, 226, 236) sts, do not join in the rnd, but work back and forth in rows
☐ K five rows
Change to 4mm circular needle
☐ Row 1: k to end
☐ Row 2: k3, p to last three sts, k3
Rows 1-2 form st st with garter st borders
☐ Work without shaping until piece meas 8cm from cast-on edge, ending after a WS row

FIRST, THIRD, FIFTH AND SEVENTH SIZES ONLY

☐ Eyelet rows: k8, turn, k1, p4, k3 turn, k8, rep the last two rows twice more, leave these eight sts on a spare needle, cut yarn, ** rejoin yarn to rem sts, k10, turn, k1, p8, k1, turn, rep last two rows twice more and first row again, leave these ten sts on a spare needle, cut yarn, ** rep from ** to ** 14 (-, 16, -, 18, -, 20, -) times, rejoin yarn to rem eight sts, k8, turn, k1, p4, k3, turn, k8, rep last two rows twice more



SECOND, FOURTH, SIXTH AND EIGHTH SIZES ONLY

☐ Eyelet rows: k3, turn, k six rows on these three sts, leave these three sts on a spare needle, cut yarn, ** rejoin yarn to rem sts, k10, turn, k1, p8, k1, turn, rep last two rows twice more and first row again, leave these ten sts on a spare needle, cut yarn, ** rep from ** to ** - (16, -, 18, -, 20, -, 22) times, rejoin yarn to rem sts, k3, turn, k six rows on these three sts

ALL SIZES

Cont across all sts as folls:
☐ Work without shaping until piece meas 26 (26, 27, 27, 28, 28, 29, 29) cm from cast-on edge, ending after a WS row

DIVIDE FOR BACK AND FRONTS

☐ Next row: k26 (28, 30, 31, 33, 35, 36, 38), leave sts on a holder for Right front, cast off next 15 (15, 15, 17, 17, 17, 19, 19) sts, k until there are 84 (90, 96, 100, 106, 112, 116, 122) sts on RH needle, turn
Work on these sts ONLY for back
☐ Next row: p
☐ Next row: k2, skpo, k to last four sts, k2tog, k2
☐ Rep last two rows 4 (5, 6, 6, 7, 8, 8, 9) times more. 74 (78, 82, 86, 90, 94, 98, 102) sts
☐ Cont in st st until armhole meas 19 (20, 20, 21, 21, 22, 22, 23) cm, ending after a p row

SHAPE SHOULDERS

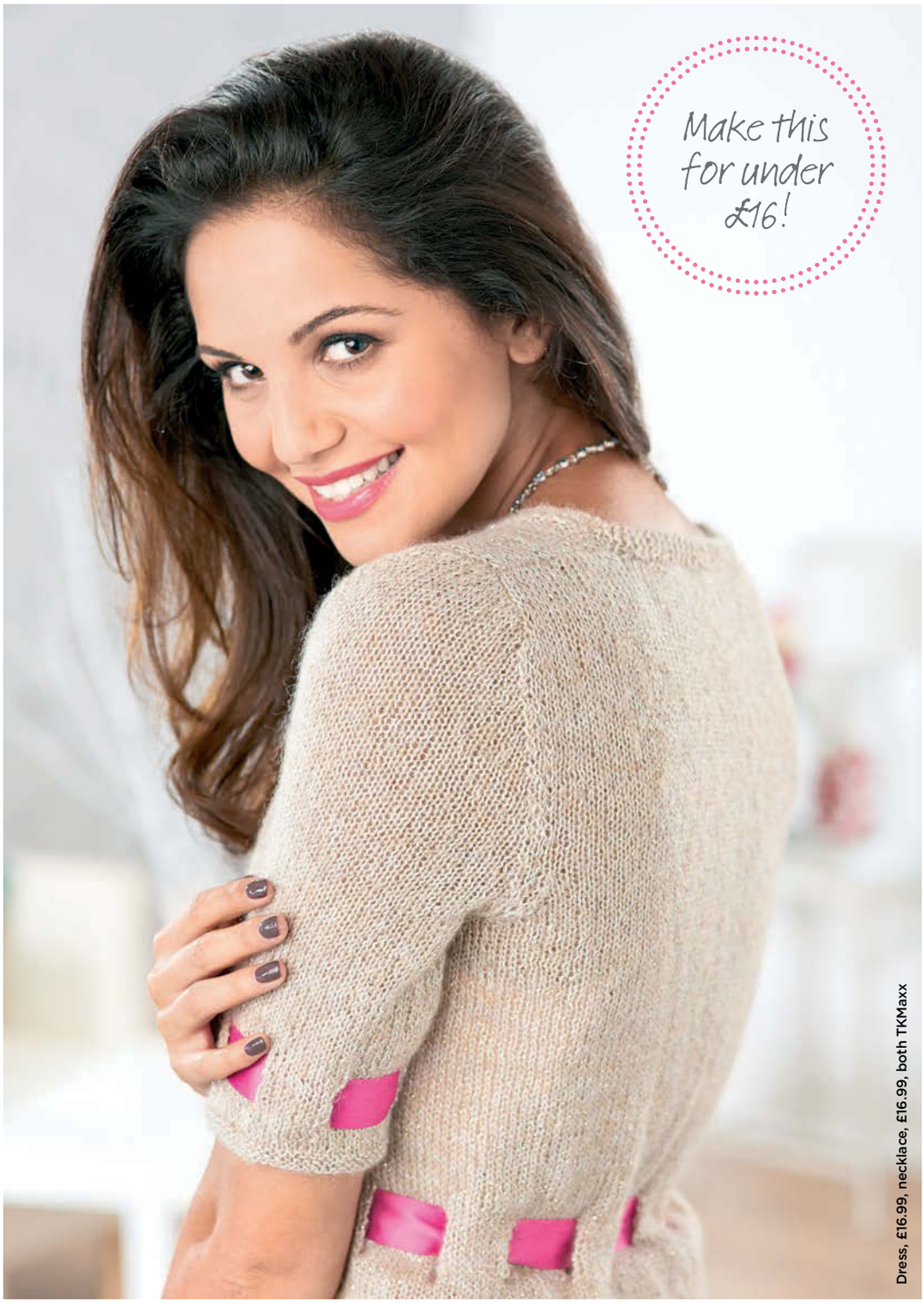
☐ Cast off eight sts at beg of next two rows and 9 (10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16) sts at beg of foll two rows. 40 (42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54) sts
☐ Cast off

LEFT FRONT

☐ With RS facing rejoin yarn to rem sts, cast off 15 (15, 15, 17, 17, 17, 19, 19) sts, k to end. 26 (28, 30, 31, 33, 35, 36, 38) sts
☐ Next row: k3, p to end
☐ Next row: k2, skpo, k to end
☐ Rep last two rows 4 (5, 6, 6, 7, 8,

"Pink and gold not your style? Try using a colour wheel to find unusual contrasting colour combinations!"

LK Editorial Assistant **Amy Adams**



Dress, £16.99, necklace, £16.99, both TKMaxx

8, 9) times more. 21 (22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28) sts
☐ Work without shaping until armhole meas same as back to shoulder, ending at armhole edge

SHAPE SHOULDER

☐ Cast off eight sts at beg of next row and 9 (10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16) sts at beg of foll RS row. Four sts
☐ Cont in garter st until band fits halfway along back neck
☐ Cast off

RIGHT FRONT

☐ With WS facing rejoin yarn to rem sts, p to last three sts, k3. 26 (28, 30, 31, 33, 35, 36, 38) sts
☐ Next row: k to last four sts, k2tog, k2
☐ Next row: p to last three sts, k3
☐ Rep last two rows 4 (5, 6, 6, 7, 8, 8, 9) times more. 21 (22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28) sts
☐ Work without shaping until armhole meas same as back to shoulder, ending at armhole edge

SHAPE SHOULDER

☐ Cast off eight sts at beg of next row and 9 (10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16) sts at beg of foll WS row. Four sts
☐ Cont in garter st until band fits halfway along back neck
☐ Cast off

SLEEVES

Using 3.25mm straight needles, cast on 60 (64, 68, 72, 76, 80, 84, 88) sts
☐ K five rows
Change to 4mm straight needles
☐ Beg with a k row, work six rows in st st
☐ Eyelet rows: k5 (7, 4, 6, 8, 5, 7, 4), turn, k1, p4 (6, 3, 5, 7, 4, 6, 3), turn, rep last two rows twice more and first row again, leave these 5 (7, 4, 6, 8, 5, 7, 4) sts on a holder, cut yarn, ** rejoin yarn to rem sts, k10, turn, k1, p8, k1, turn, rep last two rows twice more and first row again, leave these ten sts on a holder, cut yarn, **, rep from ** to ** 4 (4, 5, 5, 5, 6, 6, 7) times, rejoin yarn to rem sts, k5 (7, 4, 6, 8, 5, 7, 4), turn, p4 (6, 3, 5, 7, 4, 6, 3), k1, turn, rep last two rows twice more and first row again
☐ Work across all sts until Sleeve meas 15cm from cast-on edge, ending after a p row

SHAPE SLEEVE TOP

☐ Cast off 8 (8, 8, 9, 9, 9, 10, 10) sts at beg of next two rows. 44 (48, 52, 54, 58, 62, 64, 68) sts
☐ Next row: k2, skpo, k to last four sts, k2tog, k2
☐ Work three rows in st st
☐ Rep last four rows six times more. 30 (34, 38, 40, 44, 48, 50, 54) sts
☐ Next row: k2, skpo, k to last four sts, k2tog, k2
☐ Next row: p
☐ Rep last two rows 5 (6, 7, 7, 8, 9, 9, 10) times more. 18 (20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32) sts
☐ Cast off 3 (3, 3, 4, 4, 5, 5, 6) sts at beg of next four rows. 6 (8, 10, 8, 10, 8, 10, 8) sts
☐ Cast off

To make up

Join cast-off edges of border, sew to back neck. Join Sleeve seams, sew Sleeves into armholes, easing to fit. Thread ribbon through eyelets on Sleeves, secure to seam. Thread ribbon through Body to tie at centre front **LK**

knitwise

Sleeve right now

When sewing your sleeves to the shoulders, the stitches do not perfectly match up as they would when sewing vertical seams using a method such as mattress stitch. That means you have to be a little more flexible, easing the sleeves into the armholes as you go, always checking that you aren't stretching your fabric too far, or bunching it up. It is best to start from the centre of the top of the sleeve, and work outwards in each direction, meeting at the bottom. This means that your sleeve seams will look the neatest in the most visible places!

Download hundreds of free knitting and crochet patterns today! www.letsknit.co.uk

Rhubarb

Amanda Berry's cute Christmas pup is ready for the holidays!

With his snowflake jumper and accompanying scarf, this little fellow is all set for the big day. Soft, cuddly and full of character, he's quickly become a firm favourite here at Let's Knit, and we're sure he'll be just as adored in your home too. He's a great gift for smaller children as there are no small parts, and his removable clothes mean he can be dressed up in different outfits throughout the year. This is one dog that is certainly more than just for Christmas!

Measurements & Sizes

18.5cm tall when sitting

Knit Kit

Yarn: Robin DK, (A) shade 6390 Fudge, two 25g balls, (B) shade 99 Oyster, (C) shade 141 Red, (D) shade 70 White, one 25g ball of each

Needles: 3.5mm, 3.75mm

Tapestry needle

Toy filling: 150g

Waste yarn: black, to embroider eyes

Tension Square

24 sts x 32 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
3.5mm needles

Special Abbreviations

m1l: insert LH needle into horizontal bar between sts from front to back, k into back of this loop

m1r: insert LH needle into horizontal bar between sts from back to front, k into front of this loop

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Robin DK is made from 100% acrylic and has a great colour palette. It is available in 25g balls, making it ideal for smaller knits such as toys and accessories.

Need an Alternative?

King Cole Dollymix DK is another pure acrylic yarn that comes in handy 25g balls. Choose from over 30 shades, including bolds and pretty pastels.

Let's Shop

Robin DK costs £0.79 per 25g (75m) ball from 07789 768682, www.cosywool.co.uk

King Cole Dollymix DK costs £0.75 per 25g (73m) ball from 01159 474239, www.knitnottingham.co.uk

Start knitting here

PUPPY HEAD

Using 3.5mm needles and yarn B, cast on ten sts
☐ Row 1 and all foll WS rows: p
☐ Row 2: (kfb) ten times. 20 sts
☐ Row 4: (kfb, k1) ten times. 30 sts
☐ Row 6: (kfb, k2) ten times. 40 sts
☐ Row 8: (kfb, k3) ten times. 50 sts
☐ Row 10: (kfb, k4) ten times. 60 sts
☐ Row 12: (kfb, k5) ten times. 70 sts
☐ Rows 13-21: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 22: k13, (k2tog tbl, k4) four times, (k2tog, k4) four times, k9. 62 sts
☐ Row 23: p
☐ Row 24: k13, (k2tog tbl, k3) three times, k2tog tbl, k2, (k2tog, k3) four times, k10. 54 sts
☐ Row 25: p25, p2tog, p2tog tbl, p25. 52 sts
☐ Row 26: k22, cast off next eight sts, k to end. 44 sts
Cut yarn B and change to yarn A
☐ Row 27: p21, p2tog, p21. 43 sts
☐ Row 28: k
☐ Row 29 and all WS rows: p
☐ Row 30: k1, (k2tog, k5) six times. 37 sts
☐ Row 32: k1, (k2tog, k4) six times. 31 sts
☐ Row 34: k1, (k2tog, k3) six times. 25 sts
☐ Row 36: k1, (k2tog, k2) six times. 19 sts
☐ Row 38: k1, (k2tog, k1) six times. 13 sts
☐ Row 40: k1, (k2tog) six times. Seven sts
☐ Cut yarn leaving a tail, thread tail through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off

BODY

Using 3.5mm needles and yarn A, cast on six sts
☐ Row 1 and all foll WS rows: p
☐ Row 2: (kfb) six times. 12 sts
☐ Row 4: (kfb) 12 times. 24 sts
☐ Row 6: (kfb, k3) six times. 30 sts
☐ Row 8: (kfb, k4) six times. 36 sts
☐ Row 10: (kfb, k5) six times. 42 sts
☐ Row 12: (kfb, k6) six times. 48 sts
☐ Rows 13-23: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 24: (k2tog, k22) twice. 46 sts
☐ Row 26: (k2tog, k21) twice. 44 sts
☐ Row 28: (k2tog, k20) twice. 42 sts
☐ Rows 30-38: cont to dec as set. 32 sts
☐ Row 40: (k2tog, k2) eight times. 24 sts
☐ Row 42: (k2tog, k1) eight times. 16 sts
☐ Row 44: (k2tog) eight times. Eight sts
☐ Cast off

EARS (make two)

Using 3.5mm needles and yarn A, cast on 17 sts
☐ Row 1 and all foll WS rows: p
☐ Row 2: k1, (m1r, k7, m1l, k1) twice. 21 sts
☐ Row 4: k1, (m1r, k9, m1l, k1) twice. 25 sts
☐ Row 6: k1, (m1r, k11, m1l, k1) twice. 29 sts
☐ Rows 7-17: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 18: k1, (k2tog, k9, k2tog tbl, k1) twice. 25 sts
☐ Rows 19-21: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 22: k1, (k2tog, k7, k2tog tbl, k1) twice. 21 sts
☐ Rows 23-25: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 26: k1, (k2tog, k5, k2tog tbl, k1) twice. 17 sts
☐ Rows 27-29: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 30: k1, (k2tog, k3, k2tog tbl, k1) twice. 13 sts
☐ Rows 31-32: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Cast off

FEET (make two)

Using 3.5mm needles and yarn A, cast on six sts
☐ Row 1 and all foll WS rows: p
☐ Row 2: (kfb) six times. 12 sts
☐ Row 4: (kfb, k1) six times. 18 sts
☐ Row 6: (kfb, k2) six times. 24 sts
☐ Row 8: (kfb, k3) six times. 30 sts
☐ Row 10: (kfb, k4) six times. 36 sts
☐ Rows 11-17: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 18: (k1, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k4, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k1) twice. 28 sts
☐ Row 19: p12, (p2tog) twice, p12. 26 sts
☐ Row 20: k9, cast off eight sts, k to end. 18 sts
☐ Row 21: p8, p2tog, p8. 17 sts
☐ Rows 22-31: beg with a k row,

knitwise

French knots

It's one of the most feared stitches used in embroidery, but after a little practice the French knot is relatively simple! Bring your needle up through the fabric where you want to position the knot. Wrap the thread around the needle once for a small knot, twice for a big one. The wrapped threads should be snug against the needle. Push the needle back into the fabric close to the original hole. Pull the thread through the wrapped loops so it forms a knot.

"This toy is a good choice for children of all ages, as everything is embroidered on and there are no small parts."

LK Editorial Assistant **Molly Todd**

EXCLUSIVE TO Let's Knit

meet our DESIGNER

"This huggable puppy will make a lovely Christmas gift, and with his snuggly sweater he'll make a perfect companion on cold winter evenings"

AMANDA BERRY

Back issues from Jan 2011 onwards are available on the Let's Knit app! www.letsknit.co.uk

work in st st
☐ Row 32: k1, (k2tog) eight times. Nine sts
☐ Cut yarn leaving a tail, thread through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off

ARMS (make two)

Using 3.5mm needles and yarn A, cast on six sts
☐ Rows 1-6: work as for Feet. 24 sts
☐ Rows 7-11: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 12: k4, (k2tog) eight times, k4. 16 sts
☐ Rows 13-29: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 30: (k2tog) eight times. Eight sts
☐ Cut yarn leaving a tail, thread through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off

TAIL

Using 3.5mm needles and yarn A, cast on 14 sts
☐ Rows 1-7: beg with a p row, work in st st
Cut yarn A and change to yarn B
☐ Rows 8-9: beg with a k row, work in st st
☐ Row 10: (k2tog, k5) twice. 12 sts
☐ Row 11 and all foll WS rows: p
☐ Row 12: (k2tog, k4) twice. Ten sts
☐ Row 14: (k2tog, k3) twice. Eight sts
☐ Row 16: (k2tog, k2) twice. Six sts
☐ Cut yarn leaving a tail, thread tail through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off

To make up

Sew side edges of Body together, stuffing as you sew. Gather cast-on stitches together at base. Leave cast on edge open at top. Sew side edges of Head together, stuffing as you sew. Sew seam on top of nose. Gather cast-on stitches together on underside of Head. Embroider eyes and nose in black yarn. Embroider spots on nose in yarn A using French knots technique (see Knitwise). Sew Head on Body. Fold Ears in half and sew around all edges. Sew cast-off edge to Head, using photo as a guide. Sew side edges of Tail together, stuffing as you sew. Sew cast-on edge to back of Body. Sew side edges of Feet together, stuffing as you sew. Gather cast-on stitches at sole of Foot. Sew seam on top of Foot closed. Sew Legs to each side of Body, using photo as a guide. Sew side edges of Arms together, stuffing as you sew. Gather cast-on sts together at paw. Sew each Arm to side of Body

JUMPER

Using 3.75mm needles, yarn C and thumb method, cast on 29 sts
☐ Row 1 (WS): (k1, p1) to last st, k1
☐ Row 2: (p1, k1) to last st, p1
☐ Row 3: as Row 1
☐ Rows 4-7: beg with a k row, work in st st
☐ Rows 8-18: work Rows 1-11 from Chart
Cont in yarn C only
☐ Rows 19-23: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 24: k7, (p1, k1) seven times, p1, k7
☐ Row 25: p7, (k1, p1) seven times, k1, p7
☐ Row 26: as Row 24
☐ Row 27: p7, k1, p1, cast off 11 sts in rib, k1, p7. 18 sts
☐ Row 28: k7, p1, k1, turn, cable cast on 11 sts, turn, k1, p1, k7. 29 sts
☐ Rows 29: as Row 25
☐ Rows 30-31: rep Rows 24-25
☐ Rows 32-51: beg with a k row, work in st st
☐ Rows 52-54: rep Rows 1-3
☐ Cast off in rib

SLEEVES (make two)

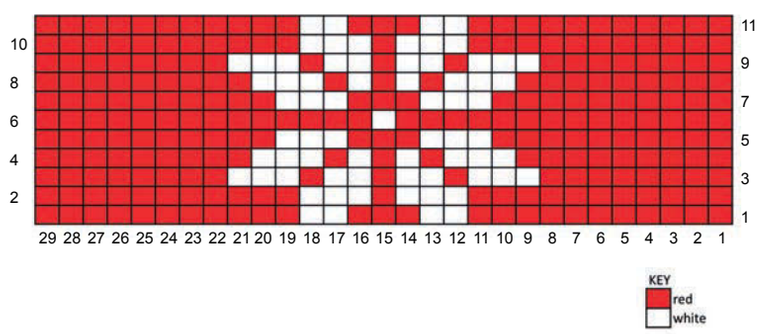
Using 3.75mm needles and yarn C, cast on 22 sts
☐ Rows 1-3: (k1, p1) 11 times
☐ Rows 4-9: beg with a k row, work in st st
☐ Cast off

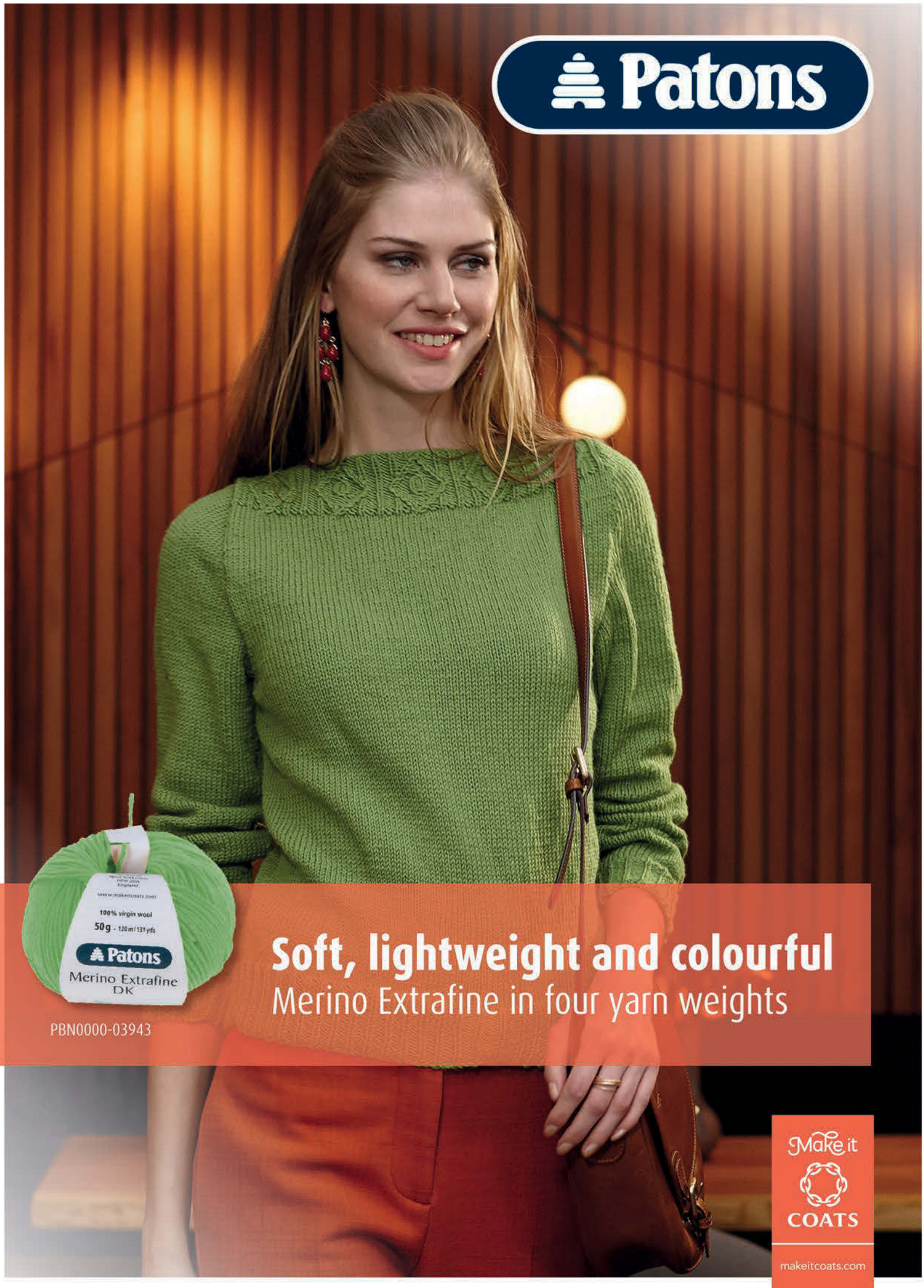
SCARF

Using 3.75mm needles and yarn D, cast on seven sts
☐ Work in garter st until piece meas 33cm long
☐ Cast off

To make up

Sew cast off edge of each Sleeve to side edge of Jumper so mid-point of Sleeve cast-off edge is in line with Row 27 of Jumper. Fold in half to make T-shape Jumper. Sew side edges and Sleeve seam under Arm. Weave in ends of Scarf **LK**





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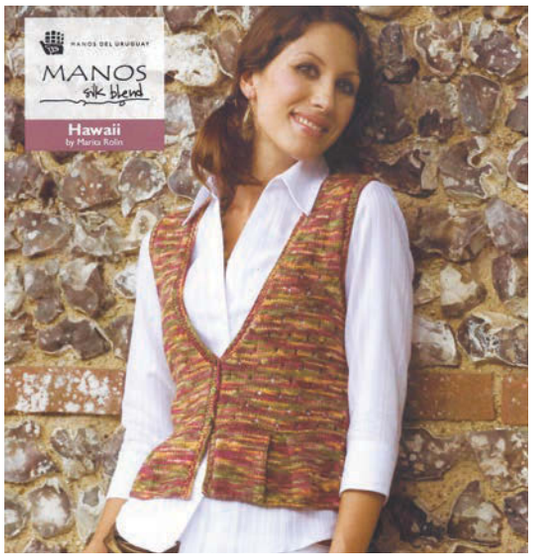

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EXCLUSIVE TO Let's knit

Candy Cane

*Add some style to your wardrobe with **Helen Ardley's** red and white scarf and hat combo*

We all know how important it is to wrap up over the chilly months and this accessories set is the perfect way to do just that. Crafted using traditional Scandinavian shades, you'll be able to wear both items year after year without either of them ever going out of fashion. Make sure you keep an eye on the colour changes as you work throughout, and watch out for whether you should hold your yarn at the front or back of the work when slipping stitches.

meet our **DESIGNER**

"Stand out in the crowd this winter with this striking red and white check set. Made in a soft wool and cotton blend yarn by Rowan, it's definitely something you will be able to snuggle into and keep warm!"

HELEN ARDLEY

Measurements & sizes

Scarf length: 170cm x 21cm
Hat circumference: 55cm

Knit Kit

Yarn: Rowan Wool Cotton, **Scarf**: (A) shade 911 Rich, two 50g balls, (B) shade 900 Antique, three 50g balls, **Hat:** (A) shade 911 Rich, (B) shade 900 Antique, one 50g ball of each

Needles: 3.25mm, 4mm

Tension Square

22 sts x 30 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
3.25mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Rowan Wool Cotton DK combines the definition of cotton with the softness of merino wool. It comes in 24 different shades, great for personalising your scarf or hat.

Need an Alternative?

James C. Brett DK with Merino is an acrylic, polyamide and merino blend yarn. It is incredibly soft and comes in 16 hues.

Let's Shop

Rowan Wool Cotton DK costs £5.75 per 50g (113m) ball from **01782 862332, www.cucumberpatch.com**

James C. Brett DK with Merino has an RRP of £3.29 per 100g (290m) ball, for stockists call **01274 565959, www.jamescbrett.co.uk**

Start knitting here

SCARF

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn A, cast on 54 sts
☐ Row 1: k2, (p2, k2) to end
☐ Row 2: p2, (k2, p2) to end
These two rows form 2x2 rib
☐ Work ten rows in 2x2 rib dec two sts on tenth row. 52 sts
NOTE: letter in square brackets indicates yarn shade
Change to 4mm needles and work in patt as folls:
☐ Row 1 (RS): [A] k
☐ Row 2: [A] (k1, p1) twice, k1, * p2, k1, p1, k1, rep from * to last seven sts, p2, (k1, p1) twice, k1
☐ Row 3: [B] k1, * k5, (sl 1 wyib, k1) twice, sl 1 wyib, rep from * to last st, k1
☐ Row 4: [B] k1, * (sl 1 wyif, k1) twice, sl 1 wyif, k5, rep from * to last st, k1
☐ Row 5: [A] k2, * sl 1 wyib, k1, sl 1 wyib, k7, rep from * to end
☐ Row 6: [A] * (k1, p1) three times, (k1, sl 1 wyif) twice, rep from * to last two sts, k2
☐ Rows 7-10: rep Rows 3-6
☐ Rows 11-12: rep Rows 3-4
☐ Rows 13-14: rep Rows 1-2
☐ Row 15: [B] k1, * (sl 1 wyib, k1) twice, sl 1 wyib, k5, rep from * to last st, k1
☐ Row 16: [B] k1, * k5, (sl 1 wyif, k1) twice, sl 1 wyif, rep from * to last st, k1
☐ Row 17: [A] * k7, sl 1 wyib, k1, sl 1 wyib, rep from * to last two sts, k2
☐ Row 18: [A] k2, * (sl 1 wyif, k1) twice, (p1, k1) three times, rep from * to end
☐ Rows 19-22: rep Rows 15-18
☐ Rows 23-24: rep Rows 15-16
These 24 rows form check patt
☐ Rep check patt twice more
☐ Next row: [A] k5, [B] k42, [A] k5
☐ Next row: [A] k5, [B] p42, [A] k5
☐ Rep last two rows until work meas 146cm
☐ Rep check patt three times more
Change to 3.25mm needles
☐ Work ten rows in 2x2 rib inc two sts on first row. 54 sts
☐ Cast off

HAT

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn A, cast on 122 sts
☐ Rows 1-12: work in 2x2 rib
Change to 4mm needles
☐ Work 24 rows of check patt
Cont in yarn A only
☐ Work eight rows in st st

SHAPE CROWN
☐ Next row: k10, * k2tog, k10, rep from * to last four sts, k2tog, k2. 112 sts
☐ Next row: p
☐ Next row: k9, * k2tog, k9, rep from * to last four sts, k2tog, k2. 102 sts
☐ Next row: p
☐ Next row: k8, * k2tog, k8, rep from * to last four sts, k2tog, k2. 92 sts
☐ Next row: p
☐ Cont to dec as set until 22 sts rem
☐ Next row: (k2tog) to end. 11 sts
☐ Next row: k1, (k2tog) to end. Six sts
☐ Next row: sl second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth sts over first st and off needle
☐ Fasten off

To Make Up

Sew in all loose ends. Sew seam at back of Hat using mattress stitch **LK**

knitwise

Front and back

'Wyif' and 'wyib' are both used to describe the position of your working yarn as you slip a stitch from the left hand needle to the right hand needle. 'Wyif' means you need to hold the yarn at the front of your work, as you do when you purl a stitch; 'wyib' means you hold the yarn at the back of your work, just like you do when knitting a stitch. The end result is the yarn running across the front of the slipped stitch, which can form a simple element of a stitch pattern.

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Measurements & Sizes

To fit: average-sized ladies' head

Length from cast-on edge to top of hood: 100cm

Width (approx): 22cm

Knit Kit

Yarn: Stylecraft Alpaca Chunky shade 6012 Orchid, four 100g balls

Needles: 6mm

Cable needle

Tension Square

14 sts x 20 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
6mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

Special Abbreviations

Tw3R: sl next st on cn and hold at back of work, k2, p1 from cn

Tw3L: sl next 2 sts on cn and hold at front of work, p1, k2 from cn

About the Yarn

Stylecraft Alpaca Chunky is a brand new yarn for this season! It is made from 20% alpaca and 80% acrylic, and is available in eight soft heathered colours.

Need an Alternative?

Deramores Vintage Chunky is a 50/50 blend of merino wool and acrylic. The eight muted shades give a lovely stitch definition, which makes it a great yarn for cables.

Let's Shop

Stylecraft Alpaca Chunky has an RRP of £4.29 per 100g (135m) ball and **Deramores Vintage Chunky** costs £3.49 per 100g (140m) ball from **0800 488 0708, www.deramores.com**

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For 15% off all orders at Deramores see page 2

Lilac Embrace

Snuggle up inside this cosy scarf by ***Pat Menchini***

The coldest days of winter can make even the most resilient of us wary of leaving the house. Luckily for knitters, we are never too far away from a handmade accessory or five to protect us from the frost and wind coming our way. That's why one of the best things about Pat's hooded scarf is that it will do two jobs in one, keeping your neck covered and your ears toasty!

Start knitting here

RIGHT ZIG-ZAG PANEL

NOTE: worked over 13 sts

☐ Row 1: p4, (Tw3R) three times
☐ Row 2 and every foll alt row: k all k sts and p all p sts as they appear
☐ Row 3: p3, (Tw3R) three times, p1
☐ Row 5: p2, (Tw3R) three times, p2
☐ Row 7: p1, (Tw3R) three times, p3
☐ Row 9: (Tw3R) three times, p4
☐ Row 11: (Tw3L) three times, p4
☐ Row 13: p1, (Tw3L) three times, p3
☐ Row 15: p2, (Tw3L) three times, p2
☐ Row 17: p3, (Tw3L) three times, p1
☐ Row 19: p4, (Tw3L) three times
☐ Row 20: (p2, k1) three times, k4

Rows 1-20 form Right zig-zag panel

LEFT ZIG-ZAG PANEL

NOTE: worked over 13 sts

☐ Row 1: (Tw3L) three times, p4
☐ Row 2 and every foll alt row: k all k sts and p all p sts as they appear
☐ Row 3: p1, (Tw3L) three times, p3
☐ Row 5: p2, (Tw3L) three times, p2
☐ Row 7: p3, (Tw3L) three times, p1
☐ Row 9: p4, (Tw3L) three times
☐ Row 11: p4, (Tw3R) three times
☐ Row 13: p3, (Tw3R) three times, p1
☐ Row 15: p2, (Tw3R) three times, p2
☐ Row 17: p1, (Tw3R) three times, p3
☐ Row 19: (Tw3R) three times, p4
☐ Row 20: k5, (p2, k1) twice, p2

Rows 1-20 form Left zig-zag panel

RIGHT SECTION

Using 6mm needles, cast on 43 sts

☐ Row 1 (RS): k3, * k1 tbl, p1, k8, p1, k1 tbl *, work Row 1 of Right zig-zag panel, rep from * to *, k3
☐ Row 2: k3, * p1 tbl, k1, p8, k1, p1 tbl *, work Row 2 of Right zig-zag panel, rep from * to *, k3
☐ Rows 3-6: rep Rows 1-2 twice working Rows 3-6 of Right zig-zag panel
☐ Row 7: * k3, k1 tbl, p1, C4B, C4F, p1, k1 tbl *, work Row 7 of Right zig-zag panel, rep from * to *, k3
☐ Row 8: as Row 2, working Row 8

knitwise

Countdown

This pattern involves keeping track of several different row numbers at once, so make sure you read through each line carefully before you knit it. If it helps, invest in a row counter so that you never lose your place in the pattern. If you have a tablet or a smartphone, you can even download free apps which keep track of several projects at once!

meet our DESIGNER

"This will knit up really quickly in time for Christmas. Although the hood section is trimmed with three tassels, you could make one large pompom instead!"
PAT MENCHINI

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of Right zig-zag panel
☐ Rows 9-10: rep Rows 1-2 working Rows 9-10 of Right zig-zag panel
☐ Rows 11-14: rep Rows 7-10 working Rows 11-14 of Right zig-zag panel
☐ Rows 15-16: rep Rows 7-8 working Rows 15-16 of Right zig-zag panel
☐ Rows 17-20: rep Rows 1-2 twice working rows 17-20 of Right zig-zag panel
These 20 rows set patt for Right section
☐ Cont in patt until work meas 92cm, ending after a RS row
NOTE: when working Left section, end after a WS row

SHAPE TOP OF HOOD

☐ Keeping patt correct, cast off three sts at beg of next row and the five foll alt rows. 25 sts
☐ Cast off

LEFT SECTION

☐ Work as Right section but working Rows 1-20 of Left zig-zag panel in place of Right zig-zag panel

To make up

Press work lightly on WS, stitch cast-off edges together, then join 30 rows of upper side edges to form a small seam at back of hood. Press seam. Make three tassels and attach to seam using image as a guide **LK**

"When you find that you need to join in a new ball of yarn, do this in the zig-zag panel section."

LK Editorial Assistant **Amy Adams**

Coat, £59, Marks & Spencer

coming next issue

COSY SAMPLER COWL BY JULIE FERGUSON

January issue of Let's Knit on sale Wednesday 24th December

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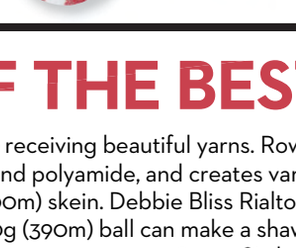
JOLLY HOLIDAY

Get in the festive mood with these beautiful handmade ceramic buttons. £1.75 each, **01306 898144 www.gilliangladrag.co.uk**

KNIT YOUR OWN

Treat someone you love to a handmade stocking filled with fabulous goodies. Find this and 11 more patterns, plus quick-knit decs, in Gwen Steege's book Knit Christmas Stockings. £8.99, Storey Publishing, **www.amazon.co.uk**

Photos © Geneve Hoffman



These five handmade badges from Jenny Arnott are full of seasonal cheer. £3.50, www.notonthehighstreet.com/jennyarnott

BEADY EYED

Pretty knitting needles always bring a smile! These bead-topped, 13cm needles are ideal for small projects and taking your work out and about. £2.99, **www.funkyneedles.co.uk**

LAZY DAYS

This kit from MillaMia comes with the yarn and pattern to make a comfy cushion – great for relaxing after the Christmas indulgence. £31, **0845 017 7474, www.millamia.com**

WIN £70 WORTH OF CHOCOLATE! TURN TO PAGE 91 TO ENTER

SWEET TOOTH

We love this brilliant Christmas Jumper bar from Hotel Chocolat – yummy! £5, **0344 493 2323, www.hotelchocolat.com**

3 OF THE BEST Gift yarns

Knitters love receiving beautiful yarns. Rowan Fine Art is a fabulous mix of wool, mohair, silk and polyamide, and creates variegated colour effects. It costs £15.95 per 100g (400m) skein. Debbie Bliss Rialto Lace is a smooth, merino yarn. One 50g (390m) ball can make a shawlette or scarf and costs £5.50. Sirdar Snuggly Baby Bamboo DK is a super versatile yarn comprising 80% bamboo sourced viscose and 20% wool. It costs £3.60 per 50g (95m) ball. All these yarns and more are available from **01782 862332, www.cucumberpatch.com**

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yarn
stories

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£2,000 worth of yarn and goodies to win!

You could be one of three lucky winners of the stash of a lifetime!

How would you like an enormous bundle of free yarn and pattern books courtesy of some of the UK's top brands, including KnitPro, Thomas B Ramsden, Blacker Yarns, Cygnet, James C. Brett, Woolyknit and Black Sheep Wools? All you have to do is take a few minutes to fill in our online survey about that most important of issues – yarn! We want to find out about your favourite yarns, your spending habits and what kind of knitter you are, and the results of this survey will be shared with the whole knitting industry to help make the experience of buying and using yarn better for you!

So, if you would like to be part of this important project and stand a chance of winning a first prize worth £1,000 or one of two runners-up prizes worth £500 each, including some of the brands below, visit **www.letsknit.co.uk/woolreport** and fill out our simple tick-box questionnaire today!

£100 worth of yarn from Cygnet Yarn

CYGNET

£100 worth of yarn from from Blacker Yarns

£150 worth of yarn from Woolyknit

1st PRIZE
Knitting goodies worth £1,000

TWO RUNNERS-UP PRIZES
Knitting goodies worth £500

www.letsknit.co.uk/woolreport

£360 of Jenny Watson yarn and patterns from James C. Brett

James C. Brett

£500 of yarns and patterns from Thomas B Ramsden, featuring such brands as Wendy, Peter Pan and Twilleys of Stamford

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£200 worth of product from Black Sheep Wools

£100 worth of yarn from Yarn Stories

yarn stories

Stylecraft
discover, create and enjoy

£200 worth of yarn from Stylecraft

Please note that photographs are for illustration purposes only and may not be the exact contents of the giveaway

EXCLUSIVE TO Let's knit

Winter Berry

Introduce some Nordic colours to your life with ***Julie Ferguson's*** *elegant cushion cover*

Bring a seasonal touch to any home with this gorgeous red and white cushion cover. Inspired by the traditional winter shades of cranberry red and snow white, you'll find this lovely homeware is a great addition to any living space. Crafted using a combination of stocking stitch and a pretty Fair Isle pattern, it's also a great project for those who have never attempted stranded colourwork before.

meet our **DESIGNER**

"An ideal project if you are new to stranded colourwork, this stylish Christmas cushion uses traditional Nordic red and white in a simple Fair isle design against a plain background."
JULIE FERGUSON

Back issues from Jan 2011 onwards are available on the Let's Knit app! www.letsknit.co.uk

Measurements & Sizes

40cm x 40cm

Knit Kit

Yarn: King Cole Merino Blend DK, (A) shade 703 Cranberry, three 50g balls, (B) shade 46 Aran, two 50g balls

Needles: 4mm needles

Buttons: six

Cushion Pad: 45cm x 45cm

Tapestry needle

Tension Square

22 sts x 26 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
4mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

King Cole Merino Blend DK is a 100% superwash wool yarn. It's beautifully soft and comes in over 40 different colours, perfect for personalising your cushion.

Need an Alternative?

Debbie Bliss Rialto DK is another pure superwash merino yarn. Choose from 48 shades, all of them soft to touch, making it ideal for any DK knit.

Let's Shop

King Cole Merino Blend DK costs £3.15 per 50g (112m) ball from www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk

Debbie Bliss Rialto DK costs £5.50 per 50g (105m) ball from 01244 389310, www.stashfineyarns.com

Start knitting here

FRONT

Using 4mm needles and yarn A, cast on 88 sts
☐ Work in st st until Front meas 10cm, ending after a p row
☐ Work Rows 1-45 from Chart A in st st. Cut yarn B and cont in yarn A
☐ Starting with a p row, work in st st for 10cm
☐ Cast off

BACK (TOP)

Using 4mm needles and yarn A, cast on 88 sts
☐ Rows 1-4: (k2, p2) to end
Work buttonhole row as folls:
☐ Next row: rib 13, (yo, k2tog, rib 10) five times, yo, k2tog, rib 13
☐ Work nine rows in (k2, p2) rib
☐ ** Work two rows in st st
☐ Work Rows 7-12 from Chart in st st six times
☐ Work Row 13 from Chart once **
☐ Cast off

BACK (BOTTOM)

Using 4mm needles and yarn A, cast on 88 sts
☐ Rows 1-14: (k2, p2) to end
☐ Work as Top from ** to **
☐ Cast off

To Make Up

Block work (see page 93). Overlap Back (Top) to Back (Bottom) and sew to Front. Sew buttons to correspond with buttonholes **LK**

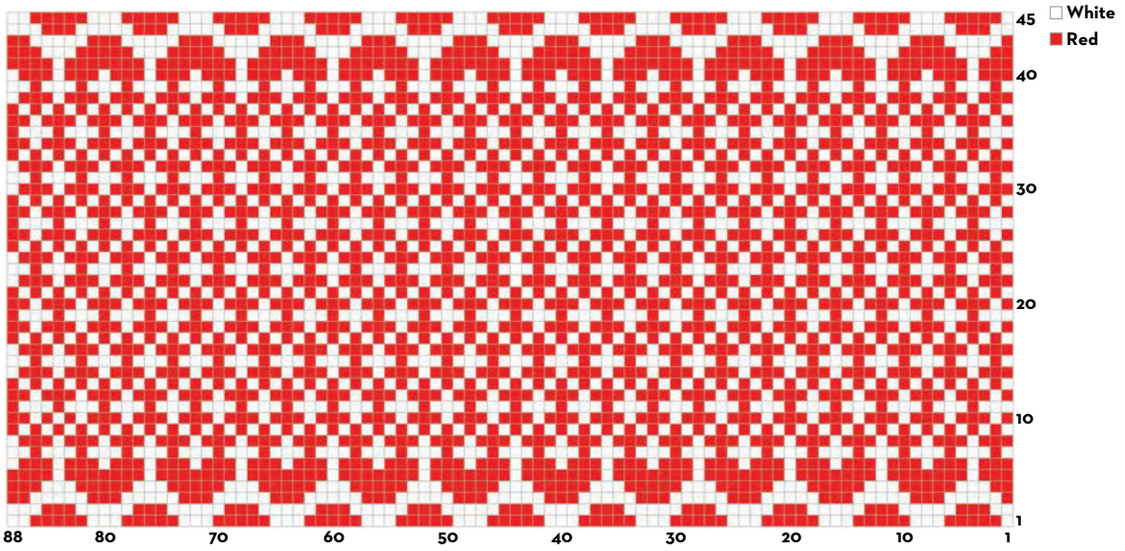
"If Fair Isle isn't your thing, try knitting the cushion in just one solid colour instead."

LK Editorial Assistant **Molly Todd**

knitwise

Stranded!

Fair Isle knitting, also known as stranded knitting, works two different coloured yarns in one row. Because the shade changes are so close together, rather than cutting and changing yarn multiple times, the yarn you are not using is carried along the back of the work and picked up when needed. Make sure you don't pull too tightly when you change the colours – this will cause the front of the work to pucker. Read more about this technique on page 89.



RICO DESIGN

RICO ESSENTIALS MERINO DK – *Essentially unbeatable!*

VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.RICO-DESIGN.CO.UK

Supersize ME!

WINTER KNITTING HAS NEVER BEEN SO COSY!

When the nights are cold and the mornings are frosty, there's nothing more comforting than a big superchunky yarn to get you going on your next project. They knit up so quickly that you could have a brand new accessory in just a couple of hours! The oversized stitches are right on trend, so make sure you choose a bright, modern colour to complete the look. Struggling to decide? Here are some of our favourites!

1 DEBBIE BLISS ROMA

Brand new for 2014, this yarn blends 70% wool with 30% alpaca, making it delightfully soft! It has a really distinctive twist and comes in fierce bright colours – great for cheering up winter. Knit with 12mm needles. One 100g (80m) ball costs £8.95 from **01282 851003, www.whichcrafts.co.uk**

2 SIRDAR BIG SOFTIE

This lightweight yarn is knitted on 10mm needles and has a loose, airy twist. Made with 51% wool and 49% acrylic, it comes in some interesting tweed shades as well as strong solid colours. One 50g (45m) ball costs £2.99 from **01925 764231, www.blacksheepwools.com**

3 KING COLE GYPSY

Look at this yarn long enough and you will start to notice more and more colours appearing. It comes in several variegated shades which range from this subtle blue (shade 97) right up to the truly kaleidoscopic! Knit on 10mm needles. One 100g (92m) ball costs £4.15 from **01924 565740, www.woolnstuff.co.uk**

4 ROWAN BIG WOOL

Made using pure wool, this soft yarn can be knitted on 10mm or 15mm needles and comes in 24 solid shades. This year, Rowan released Big Wool Colour, a variegated version of the same yarn with six vibrant colourways. One 100g (80m) ball costs £8.50 from **01782 862332, www.cucumberpatch.com**

5 STYLECRAFT SWIFT KNIT STRIPES

This unusual yarn goes from solid shades of grey or cream, to sudden patches of two-tone colours – in this case a bright neon orange! It creates a distinctive stripy effect when knitted up, and comes with an easy wristwarmers pattern on the back of the label. Use 10mm needles. One 100g (60m) ball costs £3.99 from **07974 954663, www.awoollytail.com**

6 KATIA ALPACA ONDÉ

Using 75% alpaca and 25% wool, this luxuriously soft bouclé yarn looks simply exquisite – even before you start knitting! It is available in seven natural shades and uses 10-12mm needles. One 100g (50m) ball has an RRP of £10.25. Go to **www.katia.com** for stockists.

7 DMC NEO VINTAGE MIA

The Neo Vintage collection is inspired by the 60s and 70s, and it captures the spirit of the decades with bright colours and interesting textures. Mia is a wool and acrylic yarn knitted on whopping 20mm needles, making it extra chunky! One 100g (33m) ball costs £7.99 from **0800 488 0708, www.deramores.com**

8 LOOPY MANGO BIG LOOP MERINO MINI

Believe it or not, this is the miniature version of Loopy Mango's unique Big Loop yarn! Made from 100% merino wool, it comes in bright modern colours as well as soft natural hues. There is enough in one ball to make an oversized cowl or scarf on 25mm needles. One 370g (35m) ball costs £49.95 from **0845 544 2196, www.loveknitting.com**

Download hundreds of free knitting and crochet patterns today! www.letsknit.co.uk

Woolyknit

Made from 100% super soft merino with the added convenience of being machine washable. This makes it an easy choice when knitting for baby or adults alike.

Available in a delightful pallet of 13 amazing colours which span the spectrum. Woolyknit 4ply Merino Classic's is your must have choice for any 4ply project.

For more information please visit
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Tel: 01457 877984
Unit 5, Warth Mill, Huddersfield Road, Diggle, Oldham, Great Britain, OL3 5PJ

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EXCLUSIVE TO Let's knit

Evergreen

*Add some style to your wardrobe with **Ruth Maddock's** pretty garment*

There's more to the colder months than boring, dull shades, so why not spruce up your winter wear with this gorgeous jacket? Soft to touch and with a quirky border, you will certainly stand out from the crowd whatever the occasion. Despite using a circular needle, this garment is knitted flat, so remember to turn your work at the end of each row, just like you would using straight needles.

meet our **DESIGNER**

"Easy to wear and easy to knit, this smart jacket will brighten up a pair of jeans but will also look good teamed with a special occasion outfit."

RUTH MADDOCK

Measurements & Sizes

Dress size (approx):
8-10 (12-14, 16-18, 20-22, 24-26)

To fit chest (cm):
81-86 (91-97, 102-107, 112-117, 122-127)

Actual chest (cm):
92 (102, 112, 122, 132)

Length to shoulder (cm):
54 (56, 58, 60, 62)

Sleeve length (cm):
43 (45, 45, 46, 47)

Knit Kit

Yarn: (A) Debbie Bliss Cashmerino Aran, shade 502 Lime, 8 (9, 9, 10, 10) 50g balls, (B) Debbie Bliss Milano, shade 006 Willow, 3 (4, 4, 5, 5) 50g balls

Needles: 5mm circular, 80cm long

Crochet hook: 5mm (optional)

Buttons: two, 2.5cm diameter

Stitch holders

Tension Square

18 sts x 24 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
yarn A
5mm needles

17 sts x 24 rows
10cm x 10cm
garter stitch
yarn B
5mm needle

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Debbie Bliss Cashmerino Aran is a merino wool, acrylic and cashmere yarn. It is beautifully soft and comes in over 40 shades!

Debbie Bliss Milano is a blend of natural fibres wool and silk with man-made fibres polyamide, polyester and acrylic. Available in 18 colours, it's great to use for garment borders and accessories.

Need an Alternative Yarn?

Rowan Felted Tweed is made of 50% wool, 25% alpaca and 25% viscoe. Choose from 16 autumnal hues, all of them lightly pre-felted.

Sublime Luxurious Aran Tweed is another mix of natural and man-made fibres. Soft to knit with, its 11 shades can be used for entire projects or just stylish edgings.

Start knitting here

POCKET

(make two)

Using 5mm circular needle and yarn A, cast on 30 sts
☐ Work in st st until work meas 12cm, ending after a WS row
Place sts on holder

BODY

Using 5mm circular needle and yarn B, cast on 156 (174, 190, 208, 224) sts
☐ Work in garter st until piece meas 14cm
☐ Next row (WS): k3 (2, 5, 2, 0), * k7 (8, 7, 8, 8), m1, k8 (9, 8, 9, 8), rep from * to last 3 (2, 5, 2, 0) sts, k to end. 166 (184, 202, 220, 238) sts
Cut yarn B and change to yarn A
NOTE: Letter foll instruction indicates yarn shade
☐ Next row (RS): k10 A, rejoin yarn B and cast off 30 sts pwise B, k30 sts A from Pocket, k 86 (104, 122, 140, 158) sts A, k30 sts A from Pocket, rejoin yarn B and cast off 30 sts pwise B, k10 A
Cut yarn B and cont in yarn A
☐ Work in st st until work meas 35 (36, 37, 38, 39) cm, ending after a WS row
Divide sts for Front and Back as folls:

RIGHT FRONT

☐ Next row: k42 (46, 51, 55, 60) sts, turn, work on these sts only as folls:
☐ Next row: cast off 3 (3, 4, 4, 5) sts, p to end
☐ Next row: k to last two sts, k2tog
☐ Next row: cast off 2 (2, 3, 3, 4) sts, p to end
☐ Next row: k to last two sts, k2tog
☐ Next row: p
☐ Rep last two rows 1 (1, 2, 2, 3) times more. 34 (38, 40, 44, 46) sts
☐ Cont without shaping until work meas 11 (12, 13, 13, 14) cm, ending after a WS row

Let's Shop

Debbie Bliss Cashmerino Aran costs £4.95 per 50g (90m) ball and **Debbie Bliss Milano** costs £6.95 per 50g (95m) ball from **01829 405903, www.laughinghens.com**

10% OFF!

To get 10% off both these yarns, quote LK87

Rowan Felted Tweed costs £5.70 per 50g (87m) ball from **www.attica-yarns.co.uk**

Sublime Luxurious Aran Tweed costs £4.49 per 50g (100m) from **01789 773021, www.wisebadger.com**

"If you'd rather have a plain border, try knitting it in a different coloured aran yarn so your jacket still has that quirky twist."

LK Editorial Assistant **Molly Todd**

SHAPE NECK

☐ Next row: cast off 4 (4, 5, 5, 6) sts, k to end
☐ Next row: p to last two sts, p2tog
☐ Next row: cast off 2 (2, 3, 3, 4) sts, k to end
☐ Next row: p to last two sts, p2tog
☐ Rep last two rows once more
☐ Next row: k2tog, k to end
☐ Next row: p to last two sts, p2tog
☐ Next row: k
☐ Rep last two rows 1 (2, 1, 2, 1) times more. 20 (23, 23, 26, 26) sts
☐ Cont without shaping until work meas 19 (20, 21, 22, 23) cm from beg of armhole shaping, ending after a WS row

SHAPE SHOULDER

☐ Next row: k to last 10 (11, 11, 13, 13) sts, w&t
☐ Next row: p
☐ Place all 20 (23, 23, 26, 26) sts on holder

BACK

☐ With RS facing, rejoin yarn A to rem sts and k82 (92, 100, 110, 118), turn, work on these sts only as folls:
☐ Next row: cast off 3 (3, 4, 4, 5) sts, p to last two sts, p2tog
☐ Next row: cast off 3 (3, 4, 4, 5) sts, k to last two sts, k2tog
☐ Next row: cast off 2 (2, 3, 3, 4) sts, p to last two sts, p2tog
☐ Next row: cast off 2 (2, 3, 3, 4) sts, k to last two sts, k2tog
☐ Next row: p2tog, p to last two sts, p2tog
☐ Next row: k
☐ Rep last two rows 1 (1, 1, 2, 3) times more. 64 (74, 78, 86, 88) sts
☐ Cont without shaping until work meas 18 (19, 20, 21, 22) cm from beg of armhole shaping, ending after a WS row

RIGHT SHOULDER

☐ Next row: k20 (23, 23, 26, 26), k2tog, turn, work on these sts only as folls:
☐ Next row: p
☐ Next row: k19 (22, 22, 25, 25) st k2tog. 20 (23, 23, 26, 26) sts
☐ Next row: p to last 10 (11, 11, 13, 13) sts, w&t
☐ Next row: k
Place sts on holder. Place next 20 (24, 28, 30, 32) sts for Back neck on holder

LEFT SHOULDER

With RS facing, rejoin yarn A to rem 22 (25, 25, 28, 28) sts and work as folls:
☐ Next row: k2tog, k20 (23, 23, 26, 26)
☐ Next row: p
☐ Next row: k2tog, k19 (22, 22, 25, 25)
☐ Next row: p
☐ Next row: k to last 10 (11, 11, 13, 13) sts, wrap next st, cut yarn A
Place 20 (23, 23, 26, 26) sts on holder

LEFT FRONT

With RS facing, rejoin yarn A to rem 42 (46, 51, 55, 60) sts
☐ Next row: cast off 3 (3, 4, 4, 5) sts, k to end
☐ Next row: p to last two sts, p2tog
☐ Next row: cast off 2 (2, 3, 3, 4) sts, k to end
☐ Next row: p to last two sts, p2tog
☐ Next row: k
☐ Rep last two rows 1 (1, 2, 2, 3) times more. 34 (38, 40, 44, 46) sts
☐ Cont without shaping until work meas 11 (13, 15, 14, 14) cm, ending after a RS row

SHAPE NECK

☐ Next row: cast off 4 (4, 5, 5, 6) sts, p to end
☐ Next row: k to last two sts, k2tog
☐ Next row: cast off 2 (2, 3, 3, 4) sts, p to end
☐ Next row: k to last two sts, k2tog
☐ Rep last two rows once more
☐ Next row: p2tog, p to end
☐ Next row: k to last two sts, k2tog
☐ Next row: p
☐ Rep last two rows 1 (2, 1, 2, 1) times more. 20 (23, 23, 26, 26) sts
☐ Cont without shaping until work meas 19 (20, 21, 22, 23) cm from beg of armhole shaping, ending after a RS row

SHAPE SHOULDERS

☐ Next row: p to last 10 (11, 11, 13, 13) sts, w&t
☐ Next row: k
Place all 20 (23, 23, 26, 26) sts on holder

SLEEVES (make two)

Using 5mm circular needle and yarn B, cast on 48 (52, 60, 62, 68) sts
☐ Work in garter stitch until piece meas 14cm **AT THE SAME TIME** inc one st at each end of 20th row. 50 (54, 62, 64, 70) sts
☐ Next row: k1 (1, 1, 0, 1) sts, * k6 (7, 8, 8, 9), m1, k6 (6, 7, 8, 8), rep from * three times more, k1 (1, 1, 0, 1). 54 (58, 66, 68, 74) sts
Cut yarn B and change to yarn A
☐ Beg with a k row, work in st st **AT THE SAME TIME** inc one st at each end of every foll 20th row until there are 58 (64, 70, 74, 80) sts
☐ Cont in st st without shaping until work meas 43 (45, 45, 46, 47) cm, ending after a RS row

SHAPE TOP

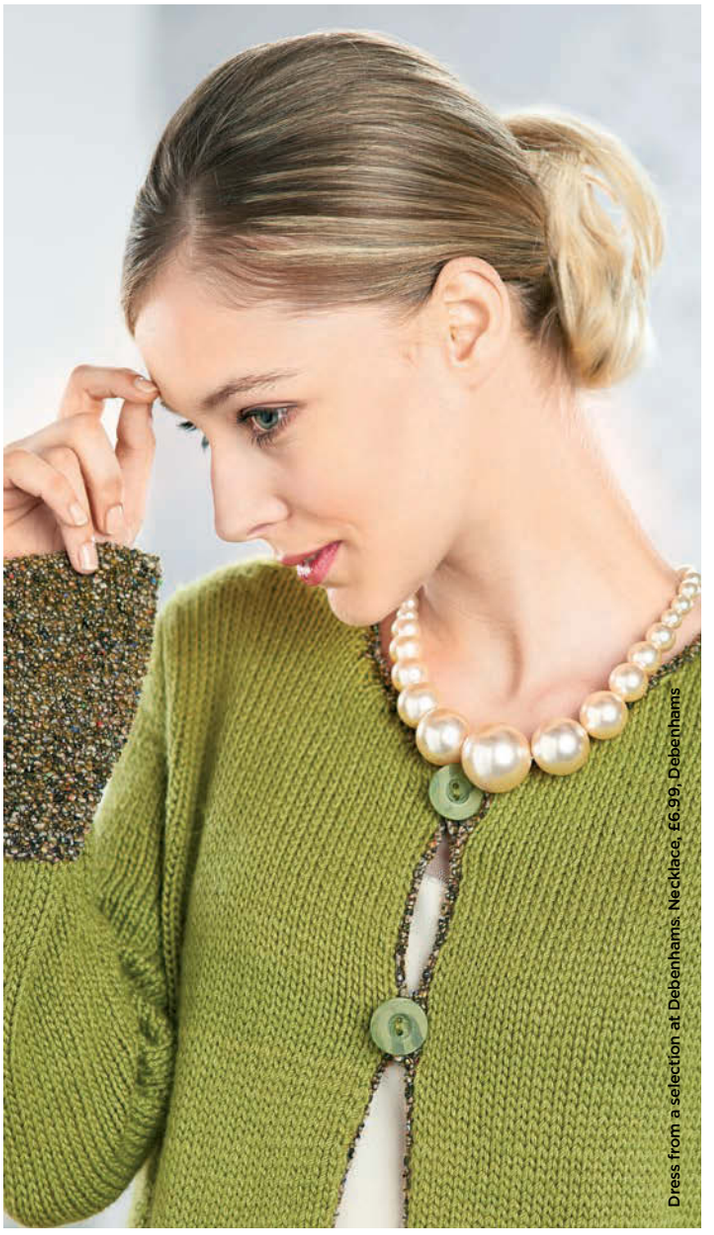
☐ Next row: cast off 3 (3, 4, 4, 5) sts, p to last two sts, p2tog
☐ Next row: cast off 3 (3, 4, 4, 5) sts, k to last two sts, k2tog
☐ Next row: cast off 2 (2, 3, 3, 4) sts, p to last two sts, p2tog
☐ Next row: cast off 2 (2, 3, 3, 4) sts, k to last two sts, k2tog
☐ Next row: p2tog, p to last two sts, p2tog
☐ Next row: k
☐ Rep last two rows 1 (1, 2, 2, 3) times more. 40 (46, 46, 50, 50) sts
☐ Work 6 (6, 4, 2, 2) rows without shaping
☐ Next row: p2tog, p to last two sts, p2tog
☐ Next row: k
☐ Rep last two rows 4 (6, 6, 8, 8) times more. 30 (32, 32, 32, 32) sts
☐ Next row: p2tog, p to last two sts, p2tog
☐ Next row: k2tog, k to last two sts, k2tog
☐ Rep last two rows four times more. 10 (12, 12, 12, 12) sts
☐ Cast off four sts at beg of next two rows. 2 (4, 4, 4, 4) sts
☐ Cast off

To make up

Block work (see page 93). Using three needle cast-off (see Knitwise), join shoulder seams. Sew Sleeve seams using backstitch. Pin Sleeves into armholes and sew in place using backstitch. Pin Pockets against RS of work and sew in place. Sew buttons to Left front, placing first at neck and second 12cm below. Using yarn B, create button loops on Right front to correspond either by using a 5mm hook to work a 5cm crochet chain or by casting on one stitch and knitting a 5cm chain

EDGES

☐ Using circular needle and yarn B, beg at lower corner of Right front,pick up and k 78 (84, 88, 88, 90) sts to front neck corner, 22 (22, 22, 26, 30) sts to shoulder, six sts on curve of Back neck, k 20 (24, 28, 30, 32) Back neck sts from holder, pick up and k six sts on curve of Back neck, 22 (22, 22, 26, 30) sts to Left front corner, and 78 (84, 88, 88, 90) sts to lower Left front corner
☐ Cast off kwise
Sew in all ends **LK**



Dress from a selection at Debenhams. Necklace, £6.99, Debenhams

knitwise

Three needle cast-off

This is a great way of casting off your work, and joining your pieces together at the same time – in this case, it finishes off the shoulders perfectly. Hold the two pieces with the right sides together and the stitches distributed evenly. Insert a third needle into the first stitch on each needle, and knit the two together. Repeat this step a second time, then pass your first stitch over the second as you would on a normal cast off.

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Purple Dream

EXCLUSIVE TO Let's knit

*Wrap up this season with **Kelly Menzies'** elegant winter wear*

The colder months are well and truly upon us, and what better way to stay snug than with this cosy chaperon hooded cowl? The wool and alpaca yarn ensures that it's both incredibly warm and soft to touch. Stylish, practical and in a rich shade of purple, its pretty pattern is crafted using a combination of purl together and knit together stitches – make sure you check our Knitwise panel (overleaf) for tips.

meet our DESIGNER

"When working the knot stitches, keep your work loose, pulling enough yarn through when working the p2tog so it is easy to work the k2tog. This will also keep the pattern from tugging in the wrong areas."

KELLY MENZIES

Measurements & Sizes

Length: 58cm
Width: 70cm

Knit Kit

Yarn: Katia Peru, shade 28, five 100g balls
Needles: 6.5mm circular needle
Darning needle
Row counter
Stitch markers

Tension Square

16 sts x 19 rows
10cm x 10cm
over patt
6.5mm needles

Special abbreviations

knot stitch: p2tog, leaving sts on LH needle, yb, k2tog through same sts, drop sts from LH needle

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Katia Peru is a blend of acrylic, wool and alpaca. It has great stitch definition and comes in over 30 different colours.

Need an Alternative Yarn?

Wendy Aspire Chunky is a brand new yarn that's made of 80% wool and 20% alpaca. Choose from ten beautiful autumnal shades.

Let's Shop

Katia Peru has an RRP of £5.65 per 100g (106m) ball. Go to **www.katia.com** for stockists

Wendy Aspire Chunky costs £5.48 per 100g (140m) ball from **01789 773021, www.wisebadger.com**

Start knitting here

TOP OF HEAD

Using 6.5mm circular needle, cast on 90 sts
☐ Row 1: (k1, p1) to end, pm after first 30 sts, pm after next 30 sts
☐ Rows 2-3: (k1, p1) to last two sts, w&t
☐ Rows 4-5: (k1, p1) to two sts before last wrapped st, k1, w&t

MAIN TOP SECTION

NOTE: On Row 2 when you have a st on either side of a marker work as folls: Sl 1, rm, place slipped st back on RH needle, p2tog but do not drop sts from LH needle, pm, yb, k2tog through same sts, drop sts from LH needle
☐ Row 1 (RS): k to first st before last wrapped st, w&t
☐ Row 2: k1, work in knot st to two sts before last wrapped st, k1, w&t
☐ Rep Rows 1-2 until only sts between markers are not wrapped, ending after a WS row. 32 sts (30 sts between markers and one wrapped st on either side)

SEAM

☐ Row 1 (RS): k to first marker, sm, k to end working wraps tog with sts
☐ Row 2: (k1, p1) to first marker, sm, work in knot st to second marker, sm, p to end, working wraps tog with sts
☐ Row 3: (k1, p1) to first marker

"Natural fibres like wool and alpaca are better for retaining warmth, so this is a great choice for chilly weather!"
LK Editorial Assistant **Molly Todd**

BACK OF HOOD

☐ Row 1: k to marker, sm, w&t
☐ Row 2: sm, k1, work in knot st to one st before marker, k1, sm, w&t
☐ Row 3: k to wrapped st, k wrapped st working wrap tog with st, w&t
☐ Row 4: k1, work in knot st to wrapped st, k wrapped st working wrap tog with st, w&t
☐ Rep Rows 3-4 until all sts have been worked and last st on each row is wrapped, ending on a Row 4

COWL

☐ Row 1: k, rm, cast on 14 sts at end of row
NOTE: Change to working in the rnd, pm to mark beg of rnd and join work. Patt will look slightly different to Hood section
☐ Rnd 2: k1, work in knot st to last 15 sts, k1, (k1, p1) seven times
☐ Rnd 3: k to last 14 sts, (k1, p1) to end
☐ Rnd 4: work in knot st to last 12 sts, (k1, p1) five times, work last two sts in knot st
☐ Rnd 5: k to last 12 sts, (k1, p1) five times, k2
☐ Rnd 6: rm, sl 1, pm, work in knot st to last 12 sts, k1, (k1, p1) three times, k1, work two sts in knot st, sl 2, rm, p2tog leaving sts on LH needle, pm, yb, k2tog through same sts, drop sts from LH needle
NOTE: First st in Rnd 7 will have already been worked
☐ Rnd 7: k to last ten sts, (k1, p1) three times, k4
☐ Rnd 8: work in knot st to end
☐ Rnd 9: k
☐ Rnd 10: rm, sl 1, pm, work in knot st to last two sts, sl 2, rm, p2tog leaving sts on LH needle, pm, yb, k2tog through same sts, drop sts from LH needle
NOTE: First st in Rnd 11 will have already been worked
☐ Rnd 11: k
☐ Rep Rnds 8-11 until work meas 20.5cm, ending on Rnd 11

EDGING

☐ Work four rnds in (k1, p1) rib
☐ Cast off

To make up

Weave in ends. Block lightly (see page 93) **LK**

Coat, £85, Marks & Spencer, Jumper, £29.99, TKMaxx

knitwise

Knot stitch

P2tog and k2tog are usually used to decrease stitches, but by using them in conjunction on two stitches the total stitch count will remain the same, as two new stitches are made on the RH needle. This method is often used to create pretty textured patterns such as the rosette stitch. Take your time and remember to hold your yarn at the back of your work in between the p2tog and k2tog stitches.

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A passion for CRAFT

We catch up with knitter, published author and toy maker extraordinaire **Val Pierce**

MacTavish, LK83

If you've knitted a toy from Let's Knit in the last five years then chances are it was designed by Val Pierce. As our resident creator of all things cuddly, Val has invented such unforgettable characters as Maud the unicorn, MacTavish the highland cow, Elton the dolphin and Graham the hedgehog. Her designs are always incredibly popular and full of unexpected details that set them apart from your average knitted toy. Along with characters, she also designs other items for children such as nursery accessories and even the odd garment. We talked to Val about what it's like to be one of the UK's foremost designers and about what she has planned for the future.

Family Ties

Taught to knit by her father when she was five years old, Val has always had a love of creative pastimes.

"If crafting is in your blood, then you will never lose that interest or passion," she says. "The trend these days is to be more self-sufficient, so making things for friends and family is a lovely way to show that you care. It is also great to be able to share skills with children and bring the whole family together."

Knitting has always been one of her favourite hobbies, and as a child she would save her pocket money to spend on wool from her local yarn store. "I have loved knitting since I was young – new yarns and the thought of crafting with them has always been a huge excitement for me. My first creation was a scarf for my doll Rosebud, and I was so proud of my efforts. "I have been collecting yarn for most of my life – I must have one of the biggest stashes around! It is my inspiration and brings so many fond memories of days gone by when I look through some of the older ones."

Designer Days

Val started her knitting career by making test garments and checking patterns for yarn manufacturers. Soon, she started to make her own projects, including baby shawls, Fair Isle sweaters and evening dresses, but for years she still continued to craft for other companies and designers.

"One day I just thought: 'Hey! You can do better than this!' So I branched out into my own designs," she tells us.

Since then, Val has gone from strength to strength, working with us here at Let's Knit alongside writing her own books. "If you have a passion, follow it: don't be put off by others," she advises. "And don't expect to earn big bucks with your knitting! Every designer knows that the hours of work we put into our projects are done because of our love of the craft."

Terrific Toys

Despite all of her design success, Val is best known for producing adorable toy patterns. But crafting cuddlies hasn't always

Albert, LK82

Maud, LK56

Jecelyn, LK79

Graham, LK85

Elton, LK80

Small Measures, LK81

TURN TO PAGE 91 TO WIN A COPY OF KNIT-A-BEAR!

been her first love.

"I hated making toys to begin with!" she exclaims. "So many small pieces of knitting. Getting the facial features is very difficult and takes lots of practice. I do all of the knitting and crochet myself, and to make the huge amount of projects that I do I have to work very long hours.

"However, my toys all have their own special characters, and the more I made them, the more I started to enjoy it. It is wonderful to be able to share my ideas with people worldwide, something I never dreamed I would be able to do."

From Albert the frog to Graham the hedgehog, Val has certainly designed an incredible array of critters over the years. "Ideas for toys come from all sorts of places," she says. "Yarns very often inspire me – MacTavish was one of those inspirations. He was originally a simple cow that progressed into a highland cow – and of course I had to make him a set of bagpipes!"

"If crafting is in your blood, then you will never lose that interest"

Book Writing

As well as being a prolific knitter and designer, Val is also a published author. With over ten pattern books under her belt and two new titles out at the start of 2015, Val has gone from strength to strength since her first one was printed back in 2010.

"I wrote to many publishers before I finally got a commission to write a book," she says. "It was a dream come true. Usually publishers come up with what they want and then I have to work on designs for them!"

With four books about crafting toy bears and five focused on toddler and baby makes, it's certainly become clear what kind of projects Val prefers to create! "I love making little things, but not because they are quicker to make – sometimes they need hours of fine intricate work to complete them! I like crafting pretty clothes for babies and children, and teddy bears have somehow become my trademark. You have to admit they are some of the cutest cuddly toys around though!"

Next Steps

Alongside her books, pattern writing and toy designing, Val has also been involved in the Innocent Smoothies Big Knit campaign for the second year running. "I have been asked many times to design the special little hats for this fund raiser," she says. "When my parents were alive they benefited from the wonderful help given by Age UK, so it was fitting that I should do something to help raise money for the charity."

In terms of future projects, Val is not short of plans! "I work on many projects at any one time since it is nice to change from one to the other. I have a toy, some slippers and some jewellery on the go right now. I love making something different – a challenge is always exciting," she tells us.

"One thing I haven't knitted that I would still like to attempt is a pair of lacy socks – I am not fond of knitting on four needles, so I really should master that soon!"

Find out more about Val, her toys and her books over at **www.crossedneedles.co.uk**, and don't forget to check out page 46 to get the pattern for her latest cuddly friend Leonard.

TOP 5 YARNS FOR TOY MAKING

1 COTTON

Wendy Supreme Luxury Cotton DK – shades 1915 Aegean Shine and 1960 Lemonade cost £3.59 per 100g (201m) ball from **01925 764231, www.blacksheepwools.com**

2 PURE WOOL

Cygnet Superwash DK – shades 2155 Gold and 4888 Copper costs £2.15 per 50g (104m) ball from **01526 869112, www.thatlittlewoolshop.co.uk**

3 TEXTURED YARNS

Sirdar Snuggly Tiny Tots – shades 906 Fab Fluoro and 907 Popping Purple cost £3.65 per 50g (137m) ball from **01924 565740, www.woolnstuff.co.uk**

4 GREAT COLOURS

Sirdar Snuggly DKshades 350 Spicy Pink and 443 Pink Plum cost £3 per 50g (165m) ball from **0131 558 1747, www.mcadirect.com**

5 CLASSIC DK

Peter Pan DK shades 938 Kiwi and 939 Soldier Blue cost £3.10 per 50g (170m) ball from **01729 822946, www.cottontailcrafts.co.uk**

Measurements & Sizes

Height when sitting (approx): 32cm

Knit Kit

Yarn: (A) Rico Fashion Fur, shade 001 Cream, two 50g balls, (B) Peter Pan DK, shade 301, (C) Wendy Merino Chunky, shade 2475, one 50g ball of each, oddments of dark grey yarn

Needles: 5.5mm, 4mm

Safety stuffing

Tapestry needle

Tension Square

12 sts x 16 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch (yarn A)
5.5mm needles

22 sts x 28 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch (yarn B)
4mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Rico Fashion Fur is a fluffy teddy bear yarn made from 85% acrylic and 15% nylon which knits up to produce a delightfully fuzzy fabric. **Peter Pan DK** is soft acrylic yarn, while **Wendy Merino Chunky** uses pure wool and has a fantastic stitch definition.

Need an Alternative?

While any chunky or DK yarn will work for the scarf, paws and face, **Rico Fashion Fur** is a difficult yarn to duplicate. Try **Rowan Fur** shade 090 for a 97% wool alternative.

Let's Shop

Rico Fashion Fur costs £2.90 per 50g (80m) ball from **01729 822946, www.cottontailcrafts.co.uk**

Peter Pan DK costs £2.95 per 50g (170m) ball and **Wendy Merino Chunky** costs £3.50 per 50g (65m) ball from **01279 771153, www.modernknitting.co.uk**

Rowan Fur costs £8.25 per 50g (60m) ball from **01829 740903, www.laughinghens.com**

Leonard

*Knit yourself an Arctic buddy, exclusively designed by **Val Pierce***

With snow white fur and big, friendly paws, Leonard will make a fantastic playmate for little ones! If you finish him in time for Christmas, why not knit a little Santa hat to get him ready for the big day? Leonard's features are embroidered so he is safe for young children, but if you are making him for a really tiny person then omit the scarf or stitch it firmly around his neck.

Start knitting here

HEAD

Using 5.5mm needles and yarn A, cast on ten sts
☐ Row 1: p
☐ Row 2: (kfb) to end. 20 sts
☐ Rows 3-7: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 8: * k1, kfb, rep from * to end. 30 sts
☐ Rows 9-13: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 14: * k1, kfb, rep from * to end. 45 sts
☐ Rows 15-25: beg with a p row, work in st st

SHAPE HEAD

☐ Row 26: * k1, k2tog, rep from * to end of row. 30 sts
☐ Rows 27-29: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 30: (k2tog) to end. 15 sts
☐ Row 31: p
Cut yarn and thread through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off

MUZZLE

Using 4mm needles and yarn B, cast on eight sts
☐ Row 1: p
☐ Row 2: (kfb) to end. 16 sts
☐ Row 3: p
☐ Row 4: * k1, kfb, rep from * to end. 24 sts
☐ Rows 5-9: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 10: * k1, kfb, rep from * to end. 36 sts
☐ Rows 11-16: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Cast off

BODY

Using 5.5mm needles and yarn A, cast on ten sts
☐ Rows 1-5: work as for Head
☐ Row 6: * k1, kfb, rep from * to end. 30 sts
☐ Rows 7-9: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 10: * k1, kfb, rep from * to end. 45 sts
☐ Rows 11-43: beg with a p row, work in st st

SHAPE BODY

☐ Row 44: * k1, k2tog, rep from * to end. 30 sts
☐ Rows 45-47: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 48: (k2tog) to end. 15 sts
☐ Row 49: p
Cut yarn and thread through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off

LEGS

(make two)

Using 5.5mm needles and yarn A, cast on eight sts
☐ Row 1: p
☐ Row 2: (kfb) to end. 16 sts
☐ Rows 3-7: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 8: (kfb) at each end of row. 18 sts
☐ Rows 9-11: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 12: * k2, kfb, rep from * to end. 24 sts
☐ Rows 13-21: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 22: * k1, k2tog, rep from * to end. 16 sts
☐ Rows 23-29: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 30: k5, (kfb) six times, k5. 22 sts
☐ Row 31: p
☐ Row 32: k5, (k1, kfb) six times, k5. 28 sts
☐ Rows 33-37: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Cast off

ARM PADS

(make two)

Using 4mm needles and yarn B, cast on eight sts
☐ Row 1: p
☐ Row 2: k1, kfb, k to last two sts, kfb, k1. Ten sts
☐ Row 3: p
☐ Rows 4-7: rep Rows 2-3 twice more. 14 sts
☐ Rows 8-16: beg with a k row, work in st st
☐ Cast off

ARMS

(make two)

Using 5.5mm needles and yarn A, cast on eight sts
☐ Rows 1-7: work as for Legs
☐ Row 8: (kfb) at each end of row. 18 sts
☐ Rows 9-17: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 18: * k2, kfb, rep from * to end. 24 sts
☐ Rows 19-25: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 26: (k2tog) to end. 12 sts
☐ Row 27: p
☐ Row 28: (k2tog) to end. Six sts

knitwise

Making up

Sewing up with this type of yarn needs care and the use of a large-eyed, blunt-ended tapestry needle. It also helps to use short lengths of yarn at a time. As you are sewing together, remember that seams will run down the back of the Head and Body, and the undersides of the Arms and Legs. Remain patient when you are stuffing, particularly around the face, as it may take some time to look perfect.

EXCLUSIVE TO Let's Knit

"Why not make Leonard a stripy scarf and give him as a gift to a football fan this Christmas?"

LK Editorial Assistant **Amy Adams**

meet our DESIGNER

"It isn't easy to count rows in this type of yarn so take care to mark down the rows you knit as you work."

VAL PIERCE

Back issues from Jan 2011 onwards are available on the Let's Knit app! www.letsknit.co.uk

Cut yarn and thread through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off

FEET PADS

(make two)

Using 4mm needles and yarn B, cast on eight sts
☐ Row 1: p
☐ Row 2: inc one st at each end of next and foll alt rows until there are 14 sts
☐ Work 11 rows in st st
☐ Dec one st at each end of the next and foll alt rows until there are eight sts
☐ Cast off

EARS

(make two)

Using 5.5mm needles and yarn A, cast on eight sts
☐ Rows 1-7 work as for Legs. 16 sts
☐ Row 8: (k2tog) to end. Eight sts
☐ Row 9: p
☐ Row 10: (k2tog) to end. Four sts
☐ Cast off

SCARF

Using 5.5mm needles and yarn C, cast on 12 sts
☐ K two rows
Commence patt as folls:
☐ Rows 1-4: work in st st
☐ Rows 5-8: work in garter st
Rows 1-8 form Scarf patt
☐ Rep Rows 1-8 three times more

SHAPE SCARF

Cont in garter st as folls:
☐ Dec one st at each end of next and foll alt rows until six sts rem
☐ Work 52 rows in garter st
☐ Inc one st at each end of next and foll alt rows until there are 12 sts
☐ Work four rows in garter st
☐ Work Rows 1-8 of Scarf patt three times in total
☐ Work four rows in st st
☐ Work two rows in garter st
☐ Cast off
Weave yarn tail through garter ridge of cast-on edge and pull to gather. Do the same on cast-off edge. To make a tassel, wrap yarn around four fingers and tie a length around middle to secure. Use this to stitch tassel to end of Scarf and cut through looped ends. Repeat for other end of Scarf

To make up

Sew Body seam, leaving one end open and stuff firmly to give a nice rounded shape, then sew closed. Take Head and sew in same way, stuffing firmly. Sew Arm seams, leaving cast-on edge open to stuff and push plenty of stuffing down into paw first, then continue stuffing rest of Arm. Take Arm pads and pin to each lower paw. Sew neatly in place. Sew Leg seams, leaving base open and pin Foot pad around opening, add more stuffing if needed and sew in place. Repeat for second Leg. Using grey yarn, embroider claws on feet and paws. Return to Head to complete. Take Muzzle and sew seam underneath. Pin to front of Head and stuff to give shape. Sew to face, adding more stuffing to give a good shape. Embroider nose, mouth and eyes using image as a guide. Take Ears and pin on to Head on either side. Take matching yarn and run around the outer edge of Ear, draw up to curl Ears into circular shape. Sew Legs to body in sitting position, then sew Arms in position using image as a guide. Sew Head on to Body and weave in ends of Scarf and tie around Bear's neck **LK**

coming *next issue*

ADORABLE CROCHETED VALENTINE'S BEAR BY LIZ WARD

January issue of Let's Knit on sale Wednesday 24th December

coming up in the NEXT ISSUE...

AMANDA BERRY'S OLIVE THE OWL YARN KIT

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Star LETTER

"I bought a few issues of Let's Knit this year, having recently returned to live in the UK from Spain. I have to say that I think Issue 85 is wonderful! I have already been out to buy the wool for Santa Claus and all the animal projects. I received the gift of twin grandsons this year and they will be seven months old in December, so I now have a good reason to start knitting. My husband laughed when I said I was going to knit everything in time for Christmas, but if I don't get round to dressing their teddies in Santa outfits this year, then they will be done in time for next year when the twins are a bit older! The Christmas jumpers may be too much for me to undertake, but I shall probably turn the patterns into festive cushions, which should last for years.

Thanks for producing such an inspiring issue, just at the right time in my life! I hope it will be used for many years to come."

Elizabeth Collins

Thank you for your letter, Elizabeth! We're glad to hear that your issue of Let's Knit is being put to such good use. Your grandchildren will certainly be spoilt for years to come! Enjoy your Star Prize!

STOP & SHARE

STORIES AND MAKES GALORE FROM OUR WONDERFUL READERS

HERE'S WHAT YOU'VE MADE:

"Meet Shona and Hector" **Joan Crawford**

"Twins for my twin granddaughters!" **Linda Fleming**

"A year's knitting by Llandysul Tysul Knitters" **knittingqueenuk**

WE ASKED YOU ON FACEBOOK:

Not long until Christmas! Do you think you'll get all of your knitting done before the big day?

25% of you said definitely
27% of you said most of it
30% of you said maybe...
18% of you said you haven't even started!

"Doll's dress" **Lyn Watts**

"Jumper for my friend's great grandson" **Suzanna Barnes**

WE ASKED ON TWITTER...

Have you ever made a knitting-related New Year Resolution?

HERE'S WHAT YOU SAID:

I made one last year. It was to attempt a jumper for the first time, which I still haven't finished!
@lauragibbons88

Not to buy more wool until I used up some of my stash. That didn't last long!
@EatsKnitsWeaves

Mine was to start knitting clothes, but I failed because I had so many projects to finish – and it's still piling!
@saralai

I'm not supposed to be starting a new project until I've stitched up the last two. Or three. Or maybe more!
@dawson_serena

Never to have more than three works-in-progress at once.
@pidgin_flap

Mine was to finish one project before starting another – and to stop shopping for balls of yarn like they're shoes!
@ad_1980

WIN!

Prizes supplied by **Purplelinda Crafts**

Both our Star Letter and our Star Makes winner have won themselves six balls of Anchor Artiste yarn with an accompanying pattern book from **www.purplelinda crafts.co.uk**

Tip OF THE MONTH

I store my yarn in vacuum bags under beds out of the way. It means you have more space for extra yarn!
Marie Hammett

PRINTED TIPS WIN A £10 VOUCHER TO SPEND AT BLACK SHEEP WOOLS

Why I love my local yarn shop

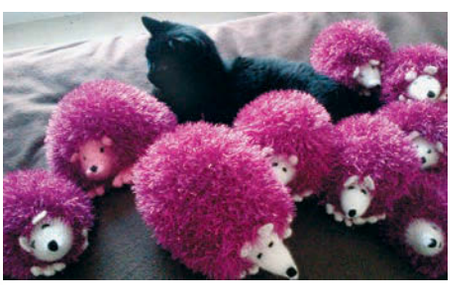
"Bantry Yarns is more than just a yarn shop – it's a warm and friendly advice centre for yarnies, a place to meet with friends for coffee and cake while surrounded by lovely wool that tempts you in a long list of future projects." Niamh Cooper

Let us know why you love your local yarn shop by emailing molly.todd@aceville.co.uk

"Baby jumper"
@Sweety Greetings

"Granny and granddad"
Joan King

"Retro cushion"
Lisa Warburton



"Waiting for their fundraising event"
Pam Locke

PINS AND NEEDLES

Dec the halls – it's that time of year again! Why not add a twist to your festive home this year by making yourself a yarn-inspired tree? We've got plenty to choose from on our Christmas Trees board on Pinterest!

ravelry.com

craftsy.com

3-squeezes.blogspot.com

Pinterest.com/letsknitmag

Get in touch

Send us photos of your makes, tell us about your experiences, share tips or answer questions and polls.

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Facebook.com/ letsknitmag

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Send tips and letters to Let's Knit, 1 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JY

TEA Break

SETTLE DOWN WITH A CUPPA TO READ, RELAX AND TEST YOUR KNITTY KNOWLEDGE

Wordplay

We've jumbled up three knitting-related words or phrases. Can you work out what they are?

eves geld (8)
rue sky punch (5, 6)
oh blunt toe (10)

LET'S KNIT'S QUICK QUIZ

How much do you know about your favourite hobby? Take our fun quiz to find out!

1. Yarn brand Noro is based in which country?
2. For what purpose would you use a niddy-noddy?
3. In which century was the treadle spinning wheel invented?
4. How many internationally recognised shades of alpaca fleece are there?
5. The name of yarn brand Sirdar is inspired by which military figure?

NAME THAT YARN

Here are three clues to our mystery yarn. Is it one that's in your stash?

- This acrylic yarn comes in big 200g balls
- It knits up on 6mm needles
- It comes in more than 40 shades, each with a variegated, marled and self-striping effect!

Check out the answers below to see how many you got right!

Caption competition

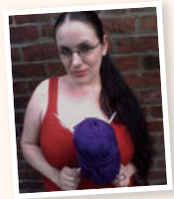
Email **molly.todd@aceville.co.uk** with your caption and we'll publish the winning entry in our next issue!

Here's our favourite caption from last issue

"I've had my eyes on this yarn for ages now."

Congratulations to **Patricia Casey**

PURLS OF WISDOM



By Claire Thomas

Knitting and the Passage of Time

December comes round so fast these days. One minute you're crocheting a cotton bag to keep your beach yoga mat in, the next you're calculating how much extra length you need to add to the scarf you're knitting to be able to wrap it round your neck a couple more times. Months, even years, flick by like pages of a calendar. And so we come to the end of another year. But how to celebrate this passage of time?

Well, December is traditionally an excellent time for knitting, combining time off work with sitting on the sofa for hours at a time watching non-stop festive TV, and stuffing your face with strawberry creams. And yet, despite this, it's often a time when I get very little done. I get sidetracked by other parts of the Christmas tradition – festive bunfights, last-minute present shopping and cutting crosses into the bottoms of Brussels sprouts.

"I get sidetracked by other parts of the Christmas tradition – festive bunfights, last-minute present shopping and cutting crosses into the bottoms of Brussel sprouts"

I think we all agree that these are hardly the kinds of activities that could compete with anything that involves sticks and string.

So, how can we maximise opportunities to knit through the month? This is the challenge I've set myself. And I've come up with the following... instead of a drunken carouse on New Year's Eve (impractical anyway with small children), we will have a finishing-up party for all our crafty friends, to finish up all the stuff we've started and failed to finish this year. We're even accompanying it with a special punchbowl made entirely of unfinished bottles from the drinks cupboard. (Being pregnant and/or breastfeeding for most of the year has really cut down my drinking opportunities). I love the idea of a finishing-up party. What better way to celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of a new one?

But one party can hardly constitute enough of a celebration for a whole year in knitting. No, there have to be other options. And so, I've taken the drastic step of turning the Christmas cooking over to my husband and my brother (who is vegan, but surprisingly willing to stuff a turkey). While they're peeling potatoes and getting up at 5a.m. to turn the oven on, I'll be knitting a scarf. My present shopping is all done after the mad rush of November, and I've stuffed the freezer with enough M&S canapés to cater for the family and friends who will undoubtedly drop in over the course of the festive period. This will give me enough time to enjoy the traditional December downtime by making a gigantic knitted blanket in red and white, big enough to drape over myself in case of unwanted callers, or if the boiler breaks, whichever is more in keeping with the festive season. It will be huge. It will be a statement: a statement of happiness and ease with the passing of time, and my life, and my knitting.

And it will also be something that I can take to finish off at the finishing-up party on New Year's Eve. That's knitters for you... always thinking!

Claire Thomas is a freelance journalist and founder of Stitch 'n' Bitch group, Knit Pickers

How did you do?

Quick Quiz: 1. Japan, 2. Winding yarn into a skein, 3. 16th Century, 4. 22, 5. Lord Kitchener, who was appointed Sirdar of Egypt
Word Play: 1. selvedge, 2. superchunky, 3. buttonhole **Name that yarn:** James C. Brett Marble Chunky

Little Ginger

EXCLUSIVE TO Let's knit

Jane Burns' *gingerbread hat is a brilliant knit for the countdown to Christmas!*

Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me... I've got my new hat on! Making gingerbread is a great way to keep the kids entertained while they're on holiday, and it's sure to bring up warm, happy memories of food fights in the kitchen and decorating faces with brightly coloured icing. That's why your kids are sure to love this pretty gingerbread hat, with sizes available from toddlers to teens!

meet our **DESIGNER**

"To give this hat a nice firm structure, it is worked on smaller needles than would normally be used for this yarn."

JANE BURNS

Measurements & Sizes

Age: Toddler (3-6yrs, 6yrs-teen)

To fit head circumference (cm): 41 (46, 51)

Knit Kit

Yarn: Rico Soft Merino Aran, (A) shade 62 Pebble, (B) shade 12 Orchid, (C) shade 60 natural, one 50g ball of each

Needles: 3.25mm straight, 3.25mm double-pointed, 4mm double-pointed, both sets of five

Buttons: 2cm, two

Tapestry needle

Stitch markers

Tension Square

22 sts x 32 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
4mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Rico Soft Merino Aran is a versatile, pure wool yarn in a fantastic range of colours with great stitch definition. It has been knitted on smaller needles to produce a firmer fabric.

Need an Alternative?

Patons Merino Extrafine Aran is a brand new yarn which is fully machine washable. Try using shades (A) 205 Camel, (B) 202 Cream and (C) 236 Tea Rose to match.

Let's Shop

Rico Soft Merino Aran costs £3.69 per 50g (100m) ball from 0800 505 3300, www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

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Patons Merino Extrafine Aran costs £4.29 per 50g (85m) ball from 0800 488 0708, www.deramores.com

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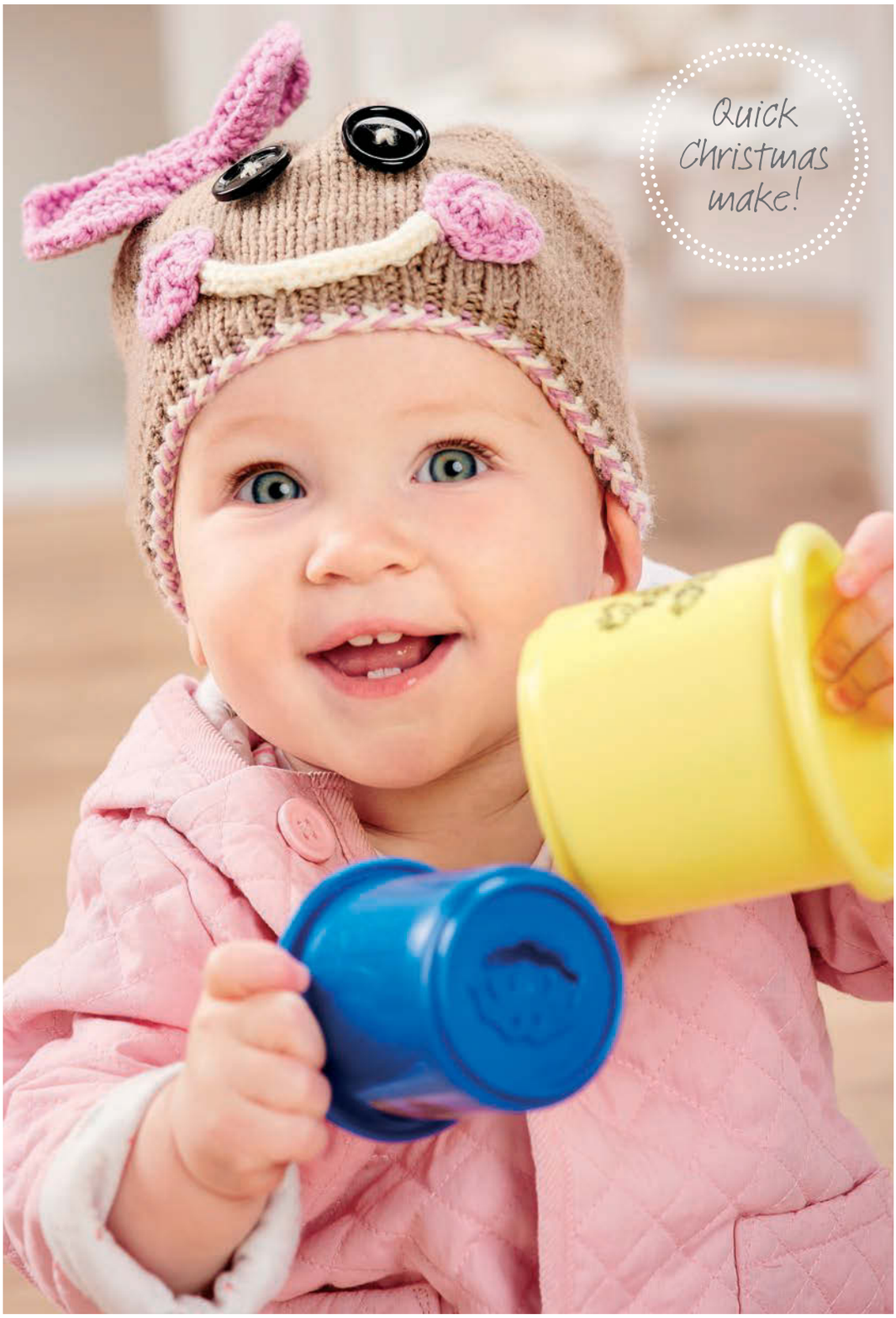
Start knitting here

HAT

Using 3.25mm dpns, yarns B and C, and two-colour cast on method (see Knitwise), loosely cast on 80 (90, 100) sts, join into the rnd taking care not to twist sts
Change to yarn A
☐ Rnds 1-4: [k1, p1] to end
Change to 4mm dpns
☐ Cont in st st [k every rnd] until piece meas 11 (12, 15) cm from cast-on edge

BEGIN SHAPING

☐ Rnd 1: * k6 (7, 8), k2tog, rep from * to end. 70 (80, 90) sts
☐ Rnd 2: k
☐ Rnd 3: * k5 (6, 7), k2tog, rep from * to end. 60 (70, 80) sts
☐ Rnd 4: * k4 (5, 6), k2tog, rep from * to end. 50 (60, 70) sts
☐ Rnd 5: * k3 (4, 5), k2tog, rep from * to end. 40 (50, 60) sts
☐ Rnd 6: * k2 (3, 4), k2tog, rep from * to end. 30 (40, 50) sts
☐ Rnd 7: * k1 (2, 3), k2tog, rep from * to end. 20 (30, 40) sts



"As always, make sure the buttons and other small pieces are sewn securely before giving to a young child"

LK Editorial Assistant **Amy Adams**

SECOND AND THIRD SIZES ONLY

☐ Rnd 8: * k- (1, 2), k2tog, rep from * to end. - (20, 30) sts

THIRD SIZE ONLY

☐ Rnd 9: * k1, k2tog, rep from * to end. - (-, 20) sts

ALL SIZES

☐ Next rnd: * k2tog, rep from * to end. Ten sts

☐ Cut yarn leaving a tail, thread through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off

CHEEKS (make two)

Using 4mm dpns and yarn B, cast on eight sts and distribute evenly over four dpns, join into the rnd taking care not to twist sts

☐ Rnds 1-2: k

☐ Rnd 3: * k1, m1, rep from * to end. 16 sts

☐ Rnd 4: k

☐ Cast off pwise

Weave in ends, use a running stitch to close centre of Cheek

BOW

Using 3.25mm straight needles and yarn B, cast on 16 sts

☐ ** Row 1: [k1, p1] to end

☐ Row 2: [p1, k1] to end **

☐ Rep Rows 1-2 until piece meas 4cm from cast-on edge, ending after a Row 2

SHAPING

☐ Row 1: [k2tog] to end. Eight sts

☐ Row 2: [k2tog] to end. Four sts

☐ Rows 3-4: k

☐ Row 5: [kfb] to end. Eight sts

☐ Row 6: [kfb] to end, pm. 16 sts

☐ Rep from ** to ** until piece meas 4cm from marker

☐ Cast off loosely

BOW CENTRE

Using 3.25mm straight needles and yarn B, cast on five sts

☐ Row 1: [k1, p1] twice, k1

☐ Row 2: [k1, p1] twice, k1

☐ Rep Rows 1-2 until piece meas 5cm from cast-on edge

☐ Cast off

Weave in ends, wrap Bow centre around middle of Bow and sew cast off/on edges together to form 'knot'

MOUTH

Using 3.25mm dpns and yarn C, cast on three sts. Work i-cord as folls:

☐ Row 1: * k to end, slide sts to other end of needle, do not turn work

☐ Rep from * pulling yarn tight across back of sts each time you start a new row until i-cord meas 8cm

☐ Cast off

To make up

Secure all ends, sew eyes, Cheeks and Mouth in place using image as a guide **LK**

knitwise

Two-colour cast on

This twist on a long-tail cast-on method produces a pretty two-coloured edge. Begin as you would usually by making a slipknot using yarn B (leaving a long tail), place slipknot on needle, then make a slip knot using yarn C and place this on the same needle (two stitches cast on).

*** Bring yarn B through between the strands of yarn C and cast on one stitch using yarn B, next bring yarn C through between the strands of yarn B and cast on one stitch using yarn C, rep from * until you have cast on the desired number of stitches.**

You will find that the strands get a little tangled (just as they do for intarsia knitting), so stop and untangle them, then continue as before. If you get lost or you aren't ready, cast on in one colour.

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EXCLUSIVE TO Let's knit

Coin Toss

Keep your change handy with these quick purses by ***Lynne Rowe***

Practise your two-colour striping technique or improve your Fair Isle with these cute festive pompom purses. They will be ideal for keeping loose change safe, and you can experiment with different colour combinations to make them last all year round. Or why not use them to hold gift cards for loved ones as a little extra something this Christmas?

meet our **DESIGNER**

"Use these festive purses instead of wrapping paper for small gifts such as jewellery, money or vouchers – just add a greeting tag."
LYNNE ROWE

Back issues from Jan 2011 onwards are available on the Let's Knit app! www.letsknit.co.uk

Measurements & Sizes

14cm x 12cm

Knit Kit

Yarn: Debbie Bliss Baby Cashmerino, (A) shade 018 Citrus, (B) shade 100 White, (C) shade 700 Ruby, one 50g ball of each

Needles: 3.25mm

Sewing thread: cream

Sewing needle

Zips: white, 13cm, two

Tension Square

25 sts x 34 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
3.25mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Debbie Bliss Baby Cashmerino is a delightful wool, acrylic and cashmere blend which is perfect for babies. It's machine washable and is available in a wide range of colours!

Need an Alternative?

This yarn has an unusual tension, as it lies between a 4ply and a DK. However, MillaMia Naturally Soft Merino is a good match and uses 100% pure wool.

Let's Shop

Debbie Bliss Baby Cashmerino costs £4.94 per 50g (125m) ball from 01244 389310, www.stashfineyarns.com

MillaMia Naturally Soft Merino costs £5 per 50g (125m) ball from 01377 255093, www.littlehoundalesknits.com

Start knitting here

STRIPED PURSE

SIDE PANEL (make two)

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn A, cast on 39 sts

☐ Row 1: (k1, p1) to last st, k1
☐ Row 2: (p1, k1) to the last st, p1
☐ Rows 3-10: rep Rows 1-2 four times more

Cont in st st as folls:

☐ Six rows in yarn B
☐ Two rows in yarn C
☐ Two rows in yarn B
☐ Two rows in yarn C
☐ Two rows in yarn B
☐ Two rows in yarn A
☐ Two rows in yarn B
☐ Two rows in yarn C
☐ Two rows in yarn B
☐ Two rows in yarn C
☐ Seven rows in yarn B
☐ Cast off knitwise

To make up

Open zip, stretch out rib and pin zip to each rib edge. Using sewing needle and thread, sew in place using back stitch and small stitches. Sew remaining three sides of Purse together using mattress stitch. Turn purse inside out and weave in all ends. Turn right way out and make pompom in yarn A (see Knitwise) and tie to zip fastening

"Turn to p89 for my tips on how to knit professional looking Fair Isle!"

LK Deputy Editor
Adrienne Chandler

FAIR ISLE PURSE

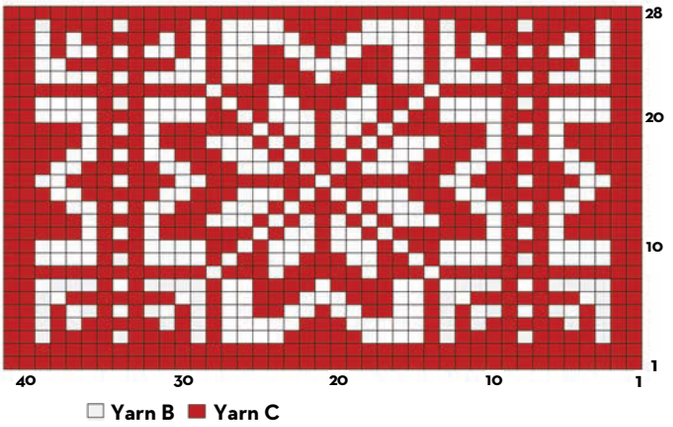
SIDE PANEL (make two)

NOTE: worked from the bottom up

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn C, cast on 41 sts

☐ Work Rows 1-28 of Fair Isle Chart
Change to yarn B
☐ Row 29: k
☐ Row 30: (p1, k1) to last st, p1
☐ Row 31: (k1, p1) to last st, k1
☐ Row 32: (p1, k1) to last st, p1
☐ Rep Rows 31-32 three times more
☐ Cast off in rib

Spray block both pieces and leave to dry completely. Make up as for Striped Purse, making pompom in yarn C (see Knitwise) **LK**



knitwise

Mini pompom

To quickly make your pompoms, take your yarn and wrap it around your fingers (two fingers make a small pompom, and three fingers make a medium pompom). The more you wrap, the fuller it will be, so be generous! When you're happy, carefully slide the pompom off your fingers, then take a long piece of matching yarn and wrap it around the centre. Tie a knot in the yarn tightly and leave the ends long – you can use this to attach the pompom to your project later. Use a sharp pair of scissors to cut through the folded loops on each side of the pompom, give it a really good shake and then trim the ends to make a fluffy rounded shape.

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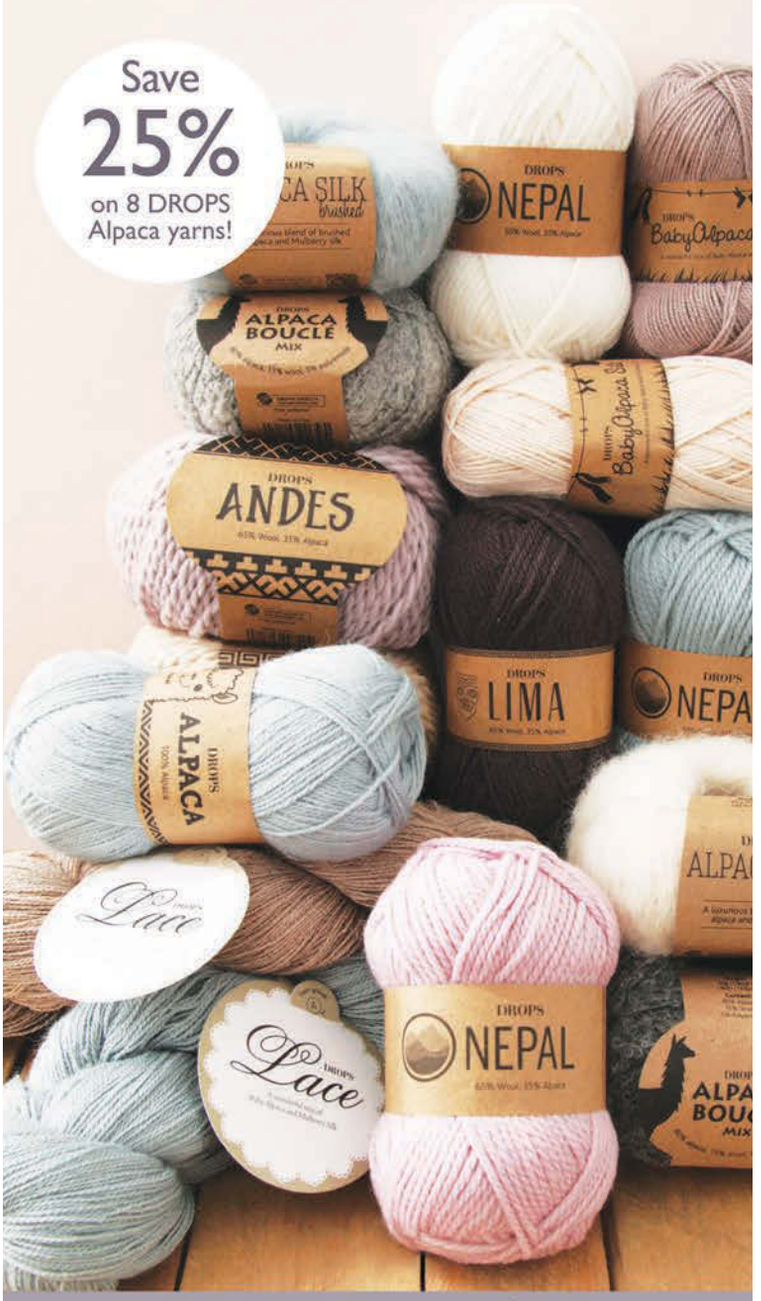

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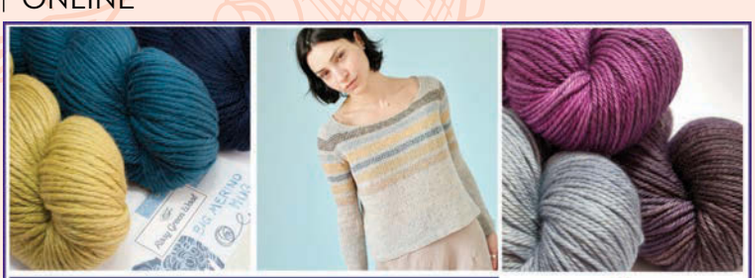

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Scandinavian STYLE

Love scandi knits? LK's ***Amy Adams*** has been discovering the stories behind one of the world's most popular knitting styles

When you hear "Scandi style", what comes to mind? Snowflake jumpers, thick mittens and simple colour palettes are some of the most common trends that we see in the UK, but there is so much more to fall in love with! After all, the Scandinavian countries each have several different regions, all with their own traditions. However, there are certain common themes that many of them share. Traditionally, most knitting patterns used stranded colourwork, although cables and knit-and-purl designs were also found. Jerseys were mostly knitted in the round and then steeked to create armholes. And in many of the areas which depended on the knitting trade, anyone who could knit would contribute!

We spoke to Carlos Zachrison of the design duo Arne & Carlos about their latest book, Knitting Scandinavian Style, which focuses on the traditions of Setesdal in Norway.

'It will always be popular'

"We've always been interested in the arts and crafts heritage of Norway, because it is one of the few countries in the world where our folk costumes are still in use," begins Carlos. "They are worn for special occasions such as weddings, baptisms, formal occasions, and of course our national day on 17th May. It means that all the different techniques have survived, as there is great demand for the hand-sewn, embroidered and knitted garments that form parts of the costumes."

Norway has so much knitting history, so what is it about Setesdal that the pair loves? For one thing, it was the home of Arne's grandmother and many of the patterns in the book were inspired by photos, postcards and Christmas cards found in her attic. In fact, there is a whole chapter in the book which was inspired by a sweater with hearts around the edge which she is wearing in his parents' wedding photo. A sense of family and tradition is clear throughout the book, and in many ways it explains Arne's own connection to knitting as a craft. "Arne comes from the countryside of Norway, where everyone knits. It's just the way of life there. He grew up with three generations in the same house and everyone was knitting, so it's a natural thing there for most people."

LOOKING AHEAD

But this wasn't the only reason that they decided to focus on Setesdal. "The knitting traditions there are very rich and it is the home of some of the most iconic Norwegian patterns, such as the 'x and o' design (see mittens, left). The knitting traditions for

these patterns date to the 1850s. It is a very interesting region because the people of Setesdal were in contact with the rest of the country, and so the patterns started to spread, influence and eventually define Norwegian knitting as we see it today. At the same time, it is a very traditional region and up until the late 1960s, people lived in quite old-fashioned ways. So it makes an interesting contrast when you look at the history as a whole."

Can he tell us a little more about the traditions of the region? "There are many elements to a Setesdal pattern and in the old days, you could actually tell a lot about the person who knitted the sweater. There were many strict rules about what was acceptable, but the different pattern elements used created a 'mark' for each knitter. So you could tell which farm a particular sweater came from!"

For such a small, traditional region, it is amazing how far the designs reached. "Setesdal was one of the first regions to embrace the hand loom knitting machines in the late 19th century," explains Carlos. "That meant that the patterns spread all over Norway. It's fascinating that such an old fashioned district could be so innovative at the same time!"

REINVENTION

The book takes many of the traditions of Setesdal sweaters and reinterprets them into wearable, contemporary patterns, putting their own stamp on the customs of the past. Did this balancing act between the old and new make them nervous? "Throughout our entire career, we've been adapting old patterns to make something new," admits Carlos. "55 Christmas Balls to Knit, our 2010 book, illustrates that well. We adapted the old patterns into something new: a knitted bauble. Our Space Invader sweater from 2008 is another example; it's a traditional Setesdal sweater, but we transformed the x and o pattern into the arcade game."

So does the pair have any top tips for knitting in a Norwegian style? "Start with simpler patterns, like hats. Be sure to carry the yarn you are not knitting with and twist it every four or five stitches to keep the tension even. It is also essential to do a thorough job by steaming and blocking

Photo: Knitting Scandinavian Style (Search Press)

NORWAY

Norway has one of the most diverse knitting traditions in Scandinavia, and several different areas are famous for their knitting heritage. Here are just a couple...

SETESDAL – This is the region focused on in Arne & Carlos' Knitting Scandinavian Style. It is well-known for its lice sweaters (*lusekofta*), which feature some of the most recognisable patterns in Norway, including the zigzags, hearts, and a repeating 'x o' design (see below). The 'x' is symbolic of St Andrew, while the o represents life's wheel, the sun. They were almost always knitted in black with a white pattern across the shoulders, and a repeating 'lice' pattern on the front. They were worn tucked into trousers, meaning that the lower half could be knitted entirely in the cheaper undyed white wool. To see the plain white section poking out was quite shocking!

Photo: Traditional Scandinavian Knitting by Sheila McGregor (Dover Publications)

SELBU – It was here that the complex colourwork patterns featuring snowflakes, stars, reindeer, and people dancing first became popular on black-and-white mittens. Around 1855, aged just 16, Marit Emstad invented the style after months of experimenting. She and her sister bravely wore the mittens to church, and the rest of the women were so enthralled that they went home and tried to knit something even better! It soon became the normal Sunday fashion, and the area became famous for the technique, selling the mittens all across Norway and beyond!

SWEDEN

Sweden was famous for its textured knitting, which used knit and purl patterns to create beautiful, intricate designs. When stranded knitting started to become popular in the nineteenth century, the different styles were all tied to their individual regions. The rules were so strict that you could only wear one district's style of knitting if you were living there!

DELSBO JACKET – This stranded jacket (right) used red, green, and black wool with white cotton. There would be various traditional patterns across the main body and sleeves of the jersey.

ULLARD JERSEYS – These red-and-black jerseys were made in Halland, often containing a panel with the wearer's initials and the date. So there would be no chance of losing or confusing it for another! Everyone who could knit in Halland would do so, and styles could be repeated for centuries, as the women in the parish "knew no other"!

From Winter Knitting by MillaMia (Pavilian Books). Photo: Emma Norén

DENMARK

Because it is closer to Germany, knitting was popular in Denmark long before the other Scandinavian countries. In fact, the oldest fragment of knitting can be dated to the 1600s!

NATTRØJER – These jerseys were worn by women and had very fine all-over knit-and-purl patterns. As the jerseys were often worn under bodices, they would have the most elaborate patterns on the sleeves, saving the simpler stitches for places which would be covered – a clever way to save some time! Red was the most popular colour, but the wealthiest women would stand out in expensive blue dye.

MID-JUTLAND – A poor region with a large number of sheep, this area was similar to the British countryside as many of its poorest members depended on knitting and spinning to make a living – men, women and children were all enlisted to lend a hand. There were many different uses for knitting. Women wore knitted underskirts and shawls, while some fisherman's mittens were knitted from human hair to make them strong!

the garments. This will help to shape everything and really makes a difference – I cannot stress enough how important the steaming is!"

There is no doubt the popularity of Scandinavian knitting is growing all the time, and it is gradually becoming one of the most recognisable styles in the world. "We are one of those regions in the world with really distinctive and beautiful knitwear and strong traditions," says Carlos fondly. "So I think it will always be popular."

Knitting Scandinavian Style is published by Search Press. To find out more, go to www.searchpress.com. Order the book for £12.99 from 0131 558 1747, www.mcadirect.com

FINLAND

Finland has a very diverse knitting history, as it takes its influences from the other Scandinavian countries as well as Russia and the Baltic regions. In the past it was well-known for knitting stockings, especially in the small city of Naantali, where they were part of a woman's wedding dowry. Because of this, knitting in public was banned in the 18th century for its 'shameful' nature!

KORSNÄS SWEATERS – These impressive garments were made by women for their fiancées, using an incredible combination of knitting and crochet to create a firmer, more durable fabric. They used 3-ply wool and were made in up to six colours, often becoming so complex that help from other women would be enlisted.

MITTENS – Some of the most impressive Finnish knitting is found in the gloves and mittens which were given as wedding gifts. The intricate patterns of flowers, stars and diamonds led to some truly stunning creations. Many Finnish knitters still reinterpret these traditions today. We love the Deep in the Forest pair designed by Tuulia Salmela (above)! For more of her designs, go to **tuulia.blogspot.co.uk**

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MAGPIES, HOMEBODIES, AND NOMADS

Cirilia Rose (£16.99, Stewart, Tabori & Chang)

Have you ever wanted to get inside the mind of a knitting designer? This new book features detailed notes and explanations of the design process, as well as advice on how to style your knits to suit you. The book is split into three sections: Magpies, which focuses on how to use the small amounts of expensive yarns that knitters love to collect; Homebodies, for comforting knits worn around the house; and Nomads, for when you are out on an adventure. The 25 fresh patterns are all lovingly photographed by Jared Flood, and it is a wonderfully luxurious and inspirational book for lovers of knitted fashion. **www.abramsbooks.com**

LK SAYS: **Ideal for aspiring knitwear designers!**

VINTAGE KNITS FOR HIM & HER

Arne England (£14.99, David & Charles)

Do you dream of the fashions of days gone by? Fitted sweaters from the 1950s, bold mini dresses from the swinging 60s, and striking prints from the smashing 70s? This book features 30 modern patterns inspired by the trends we all know and love. It perfectly balances the distinctive style of each decade with a wearable pattern that won't look stuffy or out of date. Brilliant for garment knitters looking for something a bit different! **0844 880 5851, www.stitchcraftcreate.co.uk**

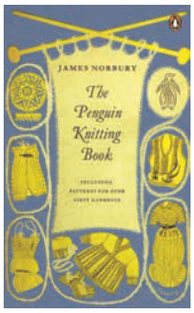
KNIT YOUR OWN FARM

Sally Muir & Joanna Osborne (£12.99, Pavilion Books)

Fresh from winning a British Knitting Award for the Best Book of 2014, this fabulous duo has released the latest title in the Best in Show collection. This time they have focused on farmyard animals, and we were delighted to see that most animals have their own baby pattern to match! Loving lambs? Craving calves? Dotty for ducklings? Knit Your Own Farm has them all, so you can create your own special flock. Be sure to visit **www.bestinshowbooks.com** to see the reader galleries and submit your own creations! To get your copy and for more information, go to **www.lovecrafts.co.uk**

We also **LOVE...**

THE PENGUIN KNITTING BOOK



James Norbury (£7.99, Penguin)

First published in 1957, Norbury's classic knitting book not only gives a detailed guide to the skill, but also contains lovingly restored vintage knitting patterns for the whole family. **www.penguin.co.uk**

BLOG THETWISTEDYARN

TheTwistedYarn is the home of Phil, a psychologist living in Oxfordshire with her husband and small twins. She loves colourwork, and her home is full of bright, beautiful knits! As well as chatting about her latest projects, she also posts useful tutorials and gorgeous photographs of her inspiration. **thetwistedyarn.com**

Pick up a skill!

TWIGG STITCH

Vicki Twigg (£19.99, Interweave/F+W Media)

Twigg Stitch is a brand new colourwork method which creates a reversible ribbed fabric, and involves working two yarn shades simultaneously across each row. Find a step-by-step guide to the technique and nine Twigg Stitch projects in this brand new book! **www.interweavestore.com**

EXCLUSIVE TO Let's knit

All that Glitters

*Glam up your party outfits with **Charmaine Fletcher's** matching scarf and clutch*

Gold is a fantastic colour at this time of year. It goes with everything, it's suitably festive, and who wouldn't want that added bit of sparkle to really make them stand out of a crowd? This set is also embellished with pretty golden beads, so it's a great opportunity to raid your stash for something really unique!

meet our **DESIGNER**

"Adding gold to any outfit with simple yet stylish accessories instantly creates an impact and it's easy to make the transition from day to evening in no time at all."

CHARMAINE FLETCHER

Measurements & sizes

Scarf:
Length: 156cm
Circumference: 10cm

Clutch:
Width: 27cm
Height when open: 24cm
Panel: 27cm x 14cm

Knit Kit

Yarn: Anchor Artiste Metallic, (A) shade 300, four 25g balls, (B) shade 303, one 25g ball

Needles: 3mm straight, 3mm double-pointed, 3.25mm straight, 3.25mm double-pointed, 3.75mm double-pointed, 3.75mm straight

Beads: medium, gold, 16; large, gold, one

Sewing needle and thread

Satin: gold, 60cm x 35cm

Wadding: 40cm x 35cm

Crochet hook (optional): 6mm

Press stud: 13mm

Tapestry needle

Stitch markers

Waste yarn

Tension Square

21 sts x 30 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
3.75mm needles

Special Abbreviations

Threading beads onto yarn: thread sewing needle with a short length of cotton, knot to make loop. Place yarn end through loop and fold end over, thread bead on to sewing needle and slide down cotton on to yarn

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Anchor Artiste Metallic is a crochet thread which roughly matches a 4ply tension. There's a great range of 26 different shades, so you can match your scarf and clutch to any outfit!

Need an Alternative?

DMC Lumina is a chainette crochet thread with a lovely sparkly finish. Try shade L677 Gold to substitute yarn A, and L3866 White Gold for yarn B.

Start knitting here

SCARF

NOTE: Read Knitwise panel regarding joining in new balls of yarn before you begin

Using 3mm dpns, yarn A and thumb method, cast on 24 sts, join in the rnd being careful not to twist sts
Change to 3.75mm dpns

FIRST BORDER
☐ Rnds 1-3: k
☐ Rnd 4 (faux picot and fold): * yfwd, k2tog, rep from * to end
☐ Rnds 5-7: k
☐ Rnd 8: p
☐ Rnds 9-10: k
☐ Rnd 11: * yfwd, k2tog, rep from * to end
☐ Rnds 12-13: k
☐ Rnd 14: p

MAIN PATT
☐ Rnds 1-3: k
☐ Rnd 4: * yfwd, k2tog, rep from * to end
☐ Rnd 5: k
Rnds 1-5 form patt
☐ Rep patt until work meas 150cm ending after a Rnd 2

SECOND BORDER
☐ Rnd 1: p
☐ Rnds 2-3: k
☐ Rnd 4: * yfwd, k2tog, rep from * to end
☐ Rnds 5-6: k
☐ Rnd 7: p
☐ Rnds 8-10: k
☐ Rnd 11 (faux picot and fold: as Rnd 4
☐ Rnds 12-14: k
Change to 3mm dpns
☐ Cast off
Cut yarn leaving a tail, weave in ends

DECORATIVE HOLDER

Using 3.75mm dpns, yarn B and thumb method, cast on 21 sts, join in the rnd being careful not to twist sts
☐ Rnds 1-6: k
☐ Rnd 7: p

Let's Shop

Anchor Artiste Metallic costs £4.49 per 25g (100m) ball from **0845 544 2196, www.loveknitting.com**
To get 15% off all orders at Loveknitting, turn to back cover

15% OFF!

DMC Lumina costs £4.99 per 20g (150m) ball from **www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk**

Top, £25, Skirt, £30, both River Island, bracelet from a selection at Debenhams

knitwise

Joining in

When knitting the scarf, you will need to join in a new ball of yarn. To do this, twist together yarn from the old and new balls and knit four stitches at the start of Row 3 of the pattern. Continue using the new ball only; complete the row, then trim, secure and weave in the yarn tails, taking care that they do not show on the outside. Trim again. Be sure not to leave this part until later, as it will not be possible to weave in the tails when the scarf is complete.

☐ Rnds 8-14: k
☐ Rnd 15: k5, thread waste yarn through next st as marker, k to end
☐ Rnds 16-22: k
☐ Rnd 23: p
☐ Rnds 24-29: k
☐ Cast off

To make up

Using yarns A and B, make tassel approximately 10cm in length and tie tassel with separate yarn, put to one side. Fold Decorative holder and join cast-on and cast-off edges with wrong sides together, draw yarn tail through marked stitch, do not cut. Trim and weave in ends, turn holder right side out. Thread beads onto spare yarn (see special abbreviations), including large bead, loop, and thread back up through beads, leaving loop at bottom open for tassel. Thread tassel through loop and secure. Tighten yarn and secure to marked stitch on holder. Remove marker, sew one bead to side of holder. Smooth tassel and adjust if necessary. For each end of scarf, lay beads out in order. Fold faux picots to wrong side, pin in place and sew down neatly. Draw yarn through picot tips, pull closed to form a soft cone shape. Use sewing needle and thread to attach beads, tightening and neatly knotting yarn at bottom to secure

CLUTCH

Using 3mm straight needles, yarn A and thumb method, cast on 60 sts
Change to 3.75mm straight needles
☐ Row 1 (RS): k
☐ Rows 2-4: p
☐ Rows 5-7: k
☐ Rows 8-41: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 42 (fold): k
☐ Rows 43-158: beg with a k row, work in st st
☐ Row 159-160: p
☐ Rows 161-163: k
☐ Row 164: p
Change to 3mm straight needles
☐ Cast off

PANEL

Using 3mm straight needles, yarn B and thumb method, cast on 60 sts
Change to 3.25mm straight needles
☐ Row 1 (RS): k
☐ Rows 2-4: p
☐ Rows 5-7: k
☐ Rows 8-10: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 11: k1, * k2tog, yfwd, rep from * to last three sts, k3
☐ Rows 12-14: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 15: k3, * yfwd, k2tog, rep from * to last st, k1
☐ Rows 16-18: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Rows 19-42: rep Rows 11-18 three times more
☐ Rows 43-45: p
☐ Rows 46-68: k
☐ Row 49: p
Change to 3mm straight needles
☐ Cast off

HOLDER

Using 3.25mm dpns, yarn A and thumb method, cast on 18 sts, join in the rnd taking care not to twist sts
☐ Rnds 1-3: k
☐ Rnd 4: p
☐ Rnds 5-11: k
☐ Rnd 12: p
☐ Rnds 13-15: k
☐ Cast off kwise

To make up

Block Panel and Clutch. Turn Holder inside out and fold edges into centre with wrong sides together, join cast-off to cast-on edge, weave in ends and trim. Turn right way out and place on centre of Panel after blocking, resembling a bow. Neatly sew down top and bottom hems of Panel and pin to back of Clutch two rows down from fold line. Sew in place and secure, weave in ends. Mattress stitch Clutch sides together. Cut wadding to 27cm x 28cm and satin to 30cm x 51cm. Allowing 1.5cm for each fold, mark these 11cm from each end of lining with seams on wrong side. Place wadding in centre of lining on wrong side adjusting folds if necessary, pin in place and, removing wadding, tack folds and sew. Replace wadding and draw folds down towards centre, pin in place, fold over right and left hems twice and pin, over stitch all around. Fold lining and wadding in half with wadding on outside ensuring fold seams match- up, pin in place and sew right and left seams, sew down tucked-under fabric on either side of seams. Place lining in bag and adjust lining hem, fold over twice, over sew, pin, catch stitch in place ensuring it can't be seen on outside. Fold Clutch to dimensions, sew on central press stud **LK**

"We love to see our readers getting creative with our patterns. Style the scarf without the holder for a more casual look, or make a handle for the clutch to hang from your shoulder."

LK Editorial Assistant **Amy Adams**

coming next issue

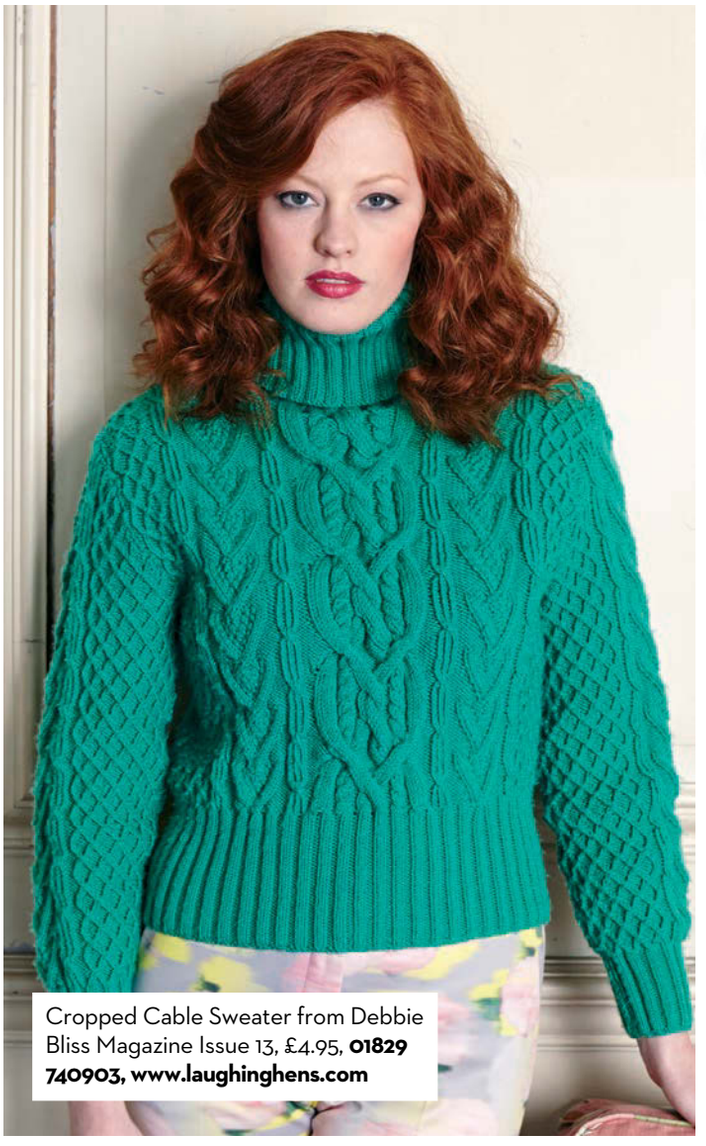
STUNNING SOCKS BY JANE BURNS

January issue of Let's Knit on sale Wednesday 24th December

Back issues from Jan 2011 onwards are available on the Let's Knit app! www.letsknit.co.uk

GREEN WITH ENVY

Make a statement this season with some bright green hues



Cropped Cable Sweater from Debbie Bliss Magazine Issue 13, £4.95, **01829 740903, www.laughinghens.com**

1 **Debbie Bliss Angel** – shade 42 Emerald costs £8.95 per 25g (200m) ball from **01279 426832, www.whateweneed.co.uk**

2 **Katia Merino 100%** – shade 54 has an RRP of £4.35 per 50g (102m) ball, for stockists go to **www.katia.com**

3 **James C Brett Top Value DK** – shade 845 has an RRP of £1.79 per 100g (290m) ball, for stockists call **01274 565959, www.jamescbrett.co.uk**

4 **West Yorkshire Spinners Aire Valley Aran** – shade Emerald has an RRP £4.75 per 100g (200m) ball, for stockists call **01535 664500, www.wyspinners.com**

5 **Stylecraft Life DK** – shade 2421 Ivy costs £2.99 per 100g (298m) from **0800 505 3300, www.woolwarehouse.co.uk**

6 **Rowan Baby Merino Silk DK** – shade 683 Grass costs £5.90 per 50g (135m) ball from **0131 558 1747, ww.mcadirect.com**

7 **Hayfield Bonus DK** – shade 916 Emerald costs £1.99 per 100g (280m) ball from **www.jolly-stitcher.co.uk**

8 **Cygnet DK** – shade 377 Emerald costs £1.60 per 100g (298m) ball from **01526 869112, www.thatlittlewoolshop.co.uk**

FASHION accent

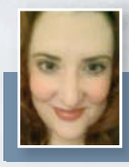
ADD AN EVERGREEN TOUCH TO YOUR FESTIVE HOME

1 Green Crocheted Bauble, £4, **0800 323 4050, www.tesco.com**
2 Rich Green Glitter Poinsettia, £2.99, **01257 792111, www.festive-lights.com**
3 Lit Frost Berry Wreath, £28, **0333 777 8000, www.next.co.uk**
4 Green Coloured Gift Tags, from £4.15, **0208 816 8284, www.bouf.com**
5 Four Green Stocking Felt Appliqués, £2.31, **www.lilshoppeofstitches.etsy.com**

Matryoshka Magic

*Decorate your tree with **Nicola Valiji's** sparkly Russian dolls*

Matryoshka dolls were first made in the 1890s, carved and painted by two men inspired by a Japanese toy. They quickly became a popular tradition in Russia and were sold all around the world! Nicola Valiji's dolls might not slot inside each other, but they do come in three different sizes. Why not make several for your tree, and swap the colour combinations around to make each one unique?



meet our **DESIGNER**

"These cute Russian dolls can be used as tree decorations or knitted in different coloured yarns. They would be ideal in a child's bedroom!"

NICOLA VALIJI

Back issues from Jan 2011 onwards are available on the Let's Knit app! www.letsknit.co.uk

Measurements & Sizes

Large doll: 17cm tall
Medium doll: 13cm tall
Small doll: 9cm tall

Knit Kit

Yarn: Sirdar Soukie DK (A) shade 170 Into The Sun, (B) shade 171 Gold Dust, (C) shade 176 Endless Days, (D) shade 177 Jasper, (E) shade 175 Daybreak, one 50g ball of each, oddments of Brown, Pink and Black DK
Needles: 3.5mm
Felt: flesh coloured
Ribbon: ric rac, gold, 1m
Buttons: gold, 1cm, three
Tapestry needle
Safety toy stuffing

Tension Square

22 sts x 28 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
3.5mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Sirdar Soukie DK is a cotton, acrylic and polyester blend with a shimmery twist and plenty of sequins. It comes in ten shades and is machine washable.

Need an alternative?

Bergere de France Estivale uses hemp, polyester and acrylic to create a sequinned yarn in 11 bright colours.

Let's Shop

Sirdar Soukie DK costs £2.75 per 50g (110m) ball from **0845 003 0775, www.wool4less.co.uk**

Bergere de France Estivale costs £3 per 50g (143m) ball from **01377 255093, www.littlehoundalesknits.com**

Start knitting here

LARGE DOLL

Using 3.5mm needles and yarn A, cast on eight sts
☐ Row 1: (kfb) to end. 16 sts
☐ Row 2: p
☐ Row 3: (kfb) to end. 32 sts
☐ Row 4: p
☐ Row 5: (kfb) to end. 64 sts
☐ Row 6-9: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 10: k
Change to yarn E
☐ Row 11: k
☐ Row 12: p
Change to yarn A
☐ Row 13: k
☐ Row 14: p
☐ Rows 15-38: cont in stripe sequence as set until there are 14 stripes in total
Cont in yarn E only
☐ Row 39: (k1, k2tog) to last st, k1. 43 sts
☐ Rows 40-54: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 55: (k2tog) to last st, k1. 22 sts
☐ Row 56: p
☐ Row 57: (k2tog) to end. 11 sts
☐ Thread yarn through rem sts, pull, but do not fasten off

SCARF

Using 3.5mm needles and yarn E, cast on 70 sts
☐ Row 1: k
☐ Row 2: p
☐ Cast off

APRON

Using 3.5mm needles and yarn B, cast on 14 sts
☐ Rows 1-10: beg with a k row, work in st st
☐ Row 11: k2tog, k to last two sts, k2tog. 12 sts
☐ Row 12: p
☐ Cast off

MEDIUM DOLL

Using 3.5mm and yarn A, cast on six sts
☐ Row 1: (kfb) to end. 12 sts
☐ Row 2: p
☐ Row 3: (kfb) to end. 24 sts
☐ Row 4: p
☐ Row 5: (kfb) to end. 48 sts
☐ Row 6: p
☐ Rows 7-8: k
Change to yarn D
☐ Row 9: k
☐ Row 10: p
Change to yarn A
☐ Rows 11-12: rep Rows 9-10
☐ Rows 13-28: cont in stripe sequence as set until there are ten stripes in total
Cont in yarn D only
☐ Row 29: (k1, k2tog) to end. 32 sts
☐ Row 30-40: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 41: (k2tog) to end. 16 sts
☐ Row 42: p
☐ Row 43: (k2tog) to end. Eight sts
☐ Thread yarn through rem sts, pull, but do not fasten off

SCARF

Using 3.5mm needles and yarn D, cast on 50 sts
☐ Work as for Large doll scarf

"These dolls would also make great decorations when placed on your mantelpiece. Just omit the ribbon on top of each head!"
LK Editorial Assistant **Amy Adams**

APRON

Using 3.5mm needles and yarn B, cast on 12 sts
☐ Rows 1-8: beg with a k row, work in st st
☐ Row 9: k2tog, k to last two sts, k2tog. Ten sts
☐ Row 10: p
☐ Cast off

SMALL DOLL

Using 3.5mm needles and yarn A, cast on four sts
☐ Row 1: (kfb) to end. Eight sts
☐ Row 2: p
☐ Row 3: (kfb) to end. 16 sts
☐ Row 4: p
☐ Row 5: (kfb) to end. 32 sts
☐ Row 6: p
☐ Rows 7-8: k
Change to yarn C
☐ Row 9: k
☐ Row 10: p
Change to yarn A
☐ Row 11: k
☐ Row 12: p
☐ Rows 13-20: cont in stripe sequence as set until there are six stripes in total
Cont in yarn C only
☐ Row 21: (k1, k2tog) to last two sts, k2. 22 sts
☐ Rows 22-28: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 29: (k2tog) to end. 11 sts
☐ Row 30: p
☐ Row 31: (k2tog) to last st, k1.Six sts
☐ Thread yarn through rem sts, pull, but do not fasten off

SCARF

Using 3.5mm needles and yarn C, cast on 35 sts
☐ Work as for Large doll scarf

APRON

Using 3.5mm needles and yarn B, cast on ten sts
☐ Rows 1-8: beg with a k row, work in st st
☐ Row 9: k2tog, k to last two sts, k2tog. Eight sts
☐ Row 10: p
☐ Cast off

To make up

Each doll is made up as follows: using a tapestry needle and yarn A, sew running stitch along cast-on edge, pull to gather up into a circle. With doll facing wrong-side out, sew up seam, turn right way out, stuff and pull top stitches closed and fasten off. Pin Scarf around doll's neck where stripes end, sew into place, crossing ends over at front using same yarn as for Scarf. Sew button at crossover. Pin Apron to front of stripes and sew into place. Embroider small star to front. Cut a 5cm felt circle for Large doll, a 4cm circle for Medium doll and a 2.5cm circle for small doll. Pin into place and sew face securely, embroidering features using picture as a guide. Using Brown yarn, add hair by sewing over each side of face to create middle parting. Cut three 20cm lengths of ribbon. Fold in half and sew to top of each doll **LK**

knitwise

Stuff and nonsense

When stuffing your dolls, you want them to be nice and squishy without getting so overstuffed that they lose their shape. Insert small amounts of stuffing at a time so that you can better control the shape you create, and make sure you spread it out into the edges. Feel free to add and take away until you're happy before sewing up. If using them as standing decorations, add a disc of cardboard in the base to make them more stable.

Naomi knitting Plushis

"MAKING A DIFFERENCE *with the skills you have"*

We chat to **Naomi Turner**, co-founder of the 100 Project and creater of Plushis, the easy-knit toys that are helping support sick children around the country

The 100 project was set up by myself and my colleague Hywel Jenkins, and we realised that we should be doing more to help cancer charities. We felt that we should start with the skills that we have and try to make a difference. I run a design agency, and Hywel is a web developer and talented photographer. Between us, we came up with the 100 Project. We photographed 100 people who are beating cancer, and want to encourage businesses to sponsor the pictures and raise money for cancer charities.

We started thinking about what else we could do and saw Lucinda Ganderton's Jaunty Juggles pattern in a past issue of Let's Knit. We came up with the idea of giving the juggling balls a face and turning them into characters. We got permission to use the pattern from Let's Knit and Lucinda, and created Plushis. They are great for children who are having treatment, because they fit nicely in the hand, and you can squeeze them and talk to them if you're feeling a bit scared.

People all around the country are knitting them and sending them to us. Some of them have been involved with the 100 project before or are keen knitters and want to help. We recently had a lady who sent us 100 Plushis, which is incredible! We've had some really creative designs, from football teams to pirates and princesses. We recently had a glittery one made from yarn that looks like tinsel, who we called Disco Dave! I knit myself – I'm not great at it but can knit Plushis because they're really easy.

We've recently made contact with Bristol Children's Hospital – the Plushis have gone down so well we've been asked to go back and give out more. Some have been taken into radiotherapy sessions, MRI scans and all sorts! We're hoping to get in touch with more hospitals and children's cancer charities. We have also sent Plushis out to the siblings of children who are unwell, because sometimes people forget that it's really hard for them too. My mum, Helen Wright, has been really involved with the campaign and is designing a Plushi hat for children who might be losing their hair through chemotherapy.

"Some Plushis have been going into radiotherapy sessions, MRI scans and all sorts!"

The project has grown so big and we're just going to keep going! Some knitting shops have been putting out our pattern to encourage their customers to knit for us. It's great to be able to have something that makes a bit of a difference. We're just really grateful to Let's Knit for letting us use the pattern!"

Patient Finn with his Plushi

HOW CAN I HELP?

Head online to **www.the100project.net** and download the free pattern. Knit your Plushis using DK yarn and have fun personalising them, but please don't use any metal embellishments and be aware of small parts. When you've made your Plushis, send them to: **The 100 Project, c/o Pink Sky, Winchcombe House, Winchcombe Street, Cheltenham, GL52 2NA**

EXCLUSIVE TO Let's knit

Ruby Kisses

Stylecraft's beautiful fluffy sweater will be a hit with children of all ages

Girls everywhere are sure to fall in love with this pretty jumper. Not only is it soft to touch and gentle against the skin, but its cropped style makes it a stylish top your little one will want to wear all the time! The yarn is machine washable, so the garment can be worn again and again without any need to worry about it getting dirty. Pick up everything for this project at your local yarn shop – call **01535 609798**, or go to **www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk** for stockists near you.

Back issues from Jan 2011 onwards are available on the Let's Knit app! www.letsknit.co.uk

Measurements & Sizes

To fit (years):
2-3 (4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11)

Actual chest (cm):
64 (70, 74, 79, 84)

Sleeve length (cm):
22 (27, 31, 35, 39)

Knit Kit

Yarn: Stylecraft Eskimo Kisses, shade 5923 Ruby, 3 (3, 4, 4, 5) 50g balls

Needles: 3.25mm, 4mm

Stitch holders

Tension Square

22 sts x 30 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
4mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Eskimo Kisses is a soft eyelash yarn made from 100% polyester. It has a chenille core with a fluffy overlay and comes in nine gorgeous, jewel-inspired shades.

Let's Shop

Eskimo Kisses has an RRP of £3.50 per 50g (135m) ball. Visit **www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk** or call **01535 609798** to find a stockist near you.

Start knitting here

BACK

** Using 3.25mm needles and thumb method, cast on 83 (89, 97, 103, 109) sts
☐ Row 1: [k1, p1] to last st, k1
☐ Row 2: [p1, k1] to last st, p1
These two rows set 1x1 rib
☐ Rows 3-9: cont in 1x1 rib
☐ Row 10: rib 2 (5, 2, 5, 8), rib2tog, [rib 5 (5, 4, 4, 4), rib2tog] 11 (11, 15, 15, 15) times, rib 2 (5, 3, 6, 9). 71 (77, 81, 87, 93) sts
Change to 4mm needles
☐ Work in st st until Back meas 12 (14, 17, 19, 20) cm, ending after a WS row

SHAPE RAGLAN

☐ Cast off four sts at beg of next two rows. 63 (69, 73, 79, 85) sts
☐ Work 4 (4, 4, 8, 12) rows dec one st at each end of every row. 55 (61, 65, 63, 61) sts **
☐ Work 28 (30, 34, 30, 28) rows dec one st at each end of next and every foll alt row. 27 (31, 31, 33, 33) sts
Place rem sts on holder

FRONT

☐ Work as Back from ** to **
☐ Work 12 (14, 18, 14, 12) rows dec one st at each end of next and every foll alt row. 43 (47, 47, 49, 49) sts

SHAPE NECK

☐ Next row: k2tog, k13, turn, place rem 28 (32, 32, 34, 34) sts on holder
Work on these 14 sts only as folls:
☐ Next row: p
☐ Work two rows dec one st at raglan edge on first row **AT THE SAME TIME** dec one st at neck edge on every row. 11 sts
☐ Work five rows dec one st at each end of next and every foll alt row. Five sts
☐ Work six rows dec one st at raglan edge on second and every foll alt row. Two sts
☐ Next row: p2tog. One st
☐ Fasten off
☐ With RS facing, work rem 28 (32, 32, 34, 34) sts left on holder, sl 13 (17, 17, 19, 19) sts on holder, rejoin yarn to rem 15 sts, k to last two sts, k2tog. 14 sts
☐ Next row: p
☐ Work two rows dec one st at neck edge on every row **AT THE SAME TIME** dec one st at raglan edge on first row. 11 sts
☐ Work five rows dec one st at each end of next and every foll alt row. Five sts
☐ Work six rows dec one st at raglan edge on second and every foll alt row. Two sts
☐ Next row: p2tog. One st
☐ Fasten off

> "If your recipient would rather not wear a cropped style, work in stocking stitch for longer on the Front and Back before shaping the raglan so it becomes a full-length sweater."
>
> **LK Editorial Assistant Molly Todd**

SLEEVES (make two)

Using 3.25mm needles and thumb method, cast on 39 (45, 47, 49, 53) sts
☐ Rows 1-9: work in 1x1 rib as for Back
☐ Row 10: rib 3 (4, 5, 2, 4), rib2tog, [rib 4 (3, 3, 4, 4), rib2tog] 5 (7, 7, 7, 7) times, rib 4 (4, 5, 3, 5). 33 (37, 39, 41, 45) sts
Change to 4 mm needles
☐ Work in st st inc one st at each end of fifth and every foll 6th (8th, 8th, 8th, 8th) row until there are 49 (53, 53, 53, 55) sts

THIRD, FOURTH AND FIFTH SIZES ONLY

☐ Inc one st at each end of every foll tenth row until there are - (-, 57, 61, 67) sts

ALL SIZES

☐ Cont without shaping until Sleeve meas 22 (27, 31, 35, 39) cm, ending after a WS row

SHAPE RAGLAN

☐ Cast off four sts at beg of next two rows. 41 (45, 49, 53, 59) sts
☐ Work 16 (12, 12, 12, 4) rows dec one st at each end of next and every foll 4th (4th, 4th, 4th, 0) row. 33 (39, 43, 47, 57) sts
☐ Work 16 (22, 26, 26, 36) rows dec one st at each end of next and every foll alt row. 17 (17, 17, 21, 21) sts
Place rem sts on holder

NECKBAND

Join raglan seams, leaving left Back raglan open
☐ Using 3.25mm needles with RS facing, k across sts from left Sleeve holder, pick up and k 13 sts evenly down left side of neck, k across sts from Front neck holder, pick up and k 14 sts evenly up right side of neck, k across sts from right Sleeve holder, k across sts from Back neck holder. 101 (109, 109, 121, 121) sts
☐ Beg with Row 2, work nine rows of 1x1 rib as for Back
☐ Cast off in rib

To make up

Join left Back raglan and Neckband seams. Join side and Sleeve seams. Pin out sweater to measurements given. Cover with clean, damp tea towels and leave until dry **LK**

knitwise

Fantastic fur

Eyelash yarn is a great way to add texture to your makes, but it can be tricky to work with, as the fluff makes it difficult to see the stitches! Work in a well-lit area and take your time knitting so you don't confuse a tuft of fur for a stitch. You can even try holding the eyelash yarn with a strand of similar coloured plain yarn – this will make the garment easier to knit and will give your stitches clearer definition, but remember it will change the tension of your work.

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what's in... STORE?

GET THE HOT GOSSIP FROM YOUR FAVOURITE SHOPS AROUND THE UK

5 Minute chat

Daniel Shore, Sales Manager at Cucumberpatch and K2Tog

Can you tell us a bit more about Cucumberpatch?
Well firstly, let's not forget about K2Tog, our two shops on Wolstanton High Street! We keep the businesses separate on paper but they are both dedicated to handknitting and customer service. Both were founded in 2000 on the back of a knitting obsession by our owner, Jane. Believe it or not there were hardly any online yarn shops 14 years ago! Our first site went up in 2004 with just Rowan yarns and Hanne Falkenberg kits. We now have three generations of family working in the business.

Where did the name come from?
Unfortunately we do not have a story to tell on this one! People are often disappointed when we have no explanation to offer, but we have no idea!

What makes the store stand out?
The name, certainly. The perseverance to keep our High Street shops open six days a week, as people still like to come in store to touch and feel the yarns; I often hear the phrase 'kids in a sweet shop'. We're also very proud of the Hanne Falkenberg kits and our huge stock of Colinette yarns.

What's your favourite yarn this Christmas?
I will definitely have a Twilleys Colin the Cat kit on my list, while our younger team members are in love with Rowan Fur and Bergere de France Abakan. So far in the shop, cowls are popular and the Katia Jumbo is leading the way!

Find out more at www.cucumberpatch.com

Four-in-one

Roll up, roll up – Addicted2Knit is now stocking yarns from Spanish spinner Katia! These include the popular Azteca and matching patterns, such as this oversized wrap which can be worn four different ways (Woman Accessories 8, pattern #50). **0208 368 9041, www.addicted2knit.co.uk**

Fields of heather

Alpaca Heather DK is a beautiful new yarn from Artesano which uses 50% alpaca and 50% Peruvian Highland wool. The eight understated shades will look beautiful at this time of year, and the natural insulation of the fibres will make all the difference on chilly walks outdoors! One 50g (100m) skein costs £4.99 from **0131 558 1747, www.mcadirect.com**

Hello crochet

Learn amigurumi with one of the cutest characters around! This new book by Mei Li Lee features 25 easy patterns to make Hello Kitty and her friends. It would make a great stocking filler for a crafty friend or a creative child! Published by Quirk Books, it costs just £9.99 from **www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk**

Amazing alpaca

UK Alpaca has released two pretty new shades in its Super Fine DK range. The first, Lunar Grey, is one of the most popular colours in the baby alpaca/merino collection. Meanwhile, Yellow Ochre was inspired by the sashes awarded to the spinner's alpacas at shows. Using fibres sourced right here in Britain, each 50g ball costs £5.95 from **01884 243579, www.ukalpaca.com**

EXCLUSIVE TO Let's knit

Christmas Crackers

*Knit some last minute gifts with **Susie Johns'** easy makes*

With December 25th growing ever closer, the last thing you want to be doing is frantically trying to finish complex projects that won't be done in time. Why not try making one of our quick knits instead? The Santa and Elf hats are a cute combination, perfect for those seasonal dinners with the whole family, and the wreath is a Yuletide decoration that would look great in any home. Each one is easy for beginners, too!

meet our **DESIGNER**

"These Christmas hats are great for dressing up over the festive season. The Santa hat fits most adult heads while the Elf hat is designed for the younger members of the family."

SUSIE JOHNS

Measurements & sizes

Santa Hat: To fit an average adult head
Elf Hat: To fit head 46cm-52cm circumference

Knit Kit

Yarn: Santa Hat: (A) King Cole Merino Blend DK, shade 9 Scarlet, two 50g balls, (B) King Cole Moments DK, shade 470 White, one 50g ball, **Elf Hat:** King Cole Merino Blend DK, (A) shade 9 Scarlet, (C) shade 854 Fern, one 50g ball of each, **Wreath:** (A) King Cole Merino Blend DK, shade 9 Scarlet, King Cole Tinsel Chunky, (D) shade 216 Emerald, (E) shade 208 Gold, one 50g ball of each

Needles: 4mm, **Hats:** 3.25mm, **Wreath:** 5.5mm

Bell: one, large (for Elf Hat only)

Polystyrene wreath base: 300mm

Tapestry needle

Waste yarn: DK, green (for Wreath only)

Tension Square

Hats
22 sts x 30 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
4mm needles

Wreath
14 sts x 20 rows
10cm x 10cm
garter stitch
5.5mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

King Cole Merino Blend DK is a 100% wool superwash yarn available in over 36 different shades. **King Cole Moments** is an eyelash yarn with a colour palette of 25 brights, bolds and more muted tones. **King Cole Tinsel Chunky** is a unique yarn perfect for the holiday season; choose from 12 hues.

Need an Alternative?

Rico Essentials Merino DK is a superwash pure wool yarn available in a wide range of colours. **Stylecraft Eskimo** is an eyelash yarn made from 100% polyester with a selection of 11 shades.

Start knitting here

SANTA HAT

Using 4mm needles and yarn A, cast on 108 sts
☐ Rows 1-20: beg with a k row, work in st st
☐ Row 21: (k10, k2tog) nine times. 99 sts
☐ Rows 22-28: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 29: (k9, k2tog) nine times. 90 sts
☐ Rows 30-36: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 37: (k8, k2tog) nine times. 81 sts
☐ Rows 38-42: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 43: (k7, k2tog) nine times. 72 sts
☐ Rows 44-48: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 49: (k6, k2tog) nine times. 63 sts
☐ Rows 50-54: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Rows 55-90: cont to dec on every sixth row as set until nine sts rem
☐ Cast off
Using 4mm needles and yarn B, pick up and k 108 sts along cast-on edge
☐ Beg with a p row, work 17 rows in st st
☐ Cast off

ELF HAT

Using 4mm needles and yarn C, cast on 84 sts
☐ Rows 1-14: beg with a k row, work in st st
☐ Row 15: (k10, k2tog) seven times. 77 sts
☐ Rows 16-22: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 23: (k9, k2tog) seven times. 70 sts
☐ Rows 24-30: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 31: (k8, k2tog) seven times. 63 sts
☐ Rows 32-38: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 39: (k7, k2tog) seven times. 56 sts
☐ Row 40-44: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 45: (k6, k2tog) seven times. 49 sts
☐ Rows 46-50: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Rows 51-86: cont to dec on every sixth row as set until seven sts rem
☐ Cast off

BRIM

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn A, cast on six sts
☐ Row 1 and all WS rows: k
☐ Row 2: kfb, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k2. Seven sts
☐ Row 4: kfb, k2, k2tog, yfwd, k2. Eight sts
☐ Row 6: kfb, k3, k2tog, yfwd, k2. Nine sts
☐ Rows 8-11: cont to inc as set. 11 sts
☐ Row 12: cast off five sts kwise, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k2. Six sts
☐ Rep Rows 1-12 a further 12 times
☐ Cast off

To make up

Using tails of yarn, backstitch side seam of both Elf Hat and Santa hat on wrong side. Backstitch border on Santa hat. Fold border in half and slip stitch cast-off edge to inside of hat along cast-on row. Stitch short ends of Elf hat brim together. Place brim inside hat with wrong sides together and stitch long edges. Turn brim to right side and hold in place with a few stitches. Stitch bell to pointed end of hat

WREATH MAIN PIECE

Using 5.5mm needles and yarn D, cast on 21 sts
☐ Work in garter st until you run out of yarn
☐ Cast off

knitwise

Easy i-cord

I-cords are great for finishing touches, such as borders or bag handles. To make your own using a pair of single-pointed needles, cast on three to five stitches and knit one row, but do not turn your work. Instead, slip the stitches from the right hand needle back on to the left hand needle. Continue to repeat these two steps until the i-cord is of desired length and cast off.

Let's Shop

King Cole Merino Blend DK costs £3.03 per 50g (112m) ball and **King Cole Moments DK** costs £1.77 per 50g (90m) ball from **01635 201660, www.yarnfest.co.uk**

King Cole Tinsel Chunky costs £2.70 per 50g (70m) ball from **www.yarnpile.co.uk**

Rico Essentials Merino DK costs £3.69 per 50g (120m) ball and **Stylecraft Eskimo** costs £1.79 per 50g (90m) ball from **0800 505 3300, www.woolwarehouse.co.uk**

GARLAND

Using 5.5mm needles and yarn E, cast on 200 sts
☐ Row 1: k
Do not cut yarn E and change to yarn A
☐ Rows 2-3: k
Cut yarn A and cont in yarn E
☐ Row 4: k
☐ Cast off

BOW

LOOPS

Using 4mm needles and yarn A, cast on 17 sts
☐ Row 1: k
☐ Row 2: sl 1, k to end
☐ Rep Row 2 99 times more
☐ Cast off

TAILS

Using 4mm needles and yarn A, place a slip knot on LH needle
☐ Row 1: kfb. Two sts
☐ Row 2: sl 1, k to end
☐ Row 3: kfb, k to end. Three sts
☐ Rows 4-23: rep Rows 2-3 ten times more. 13 sts
☐ Rows 24-43: rep Row 2 a further 20 times
☐ Row 44: sl 1, k4, sl 1, k2tog, psso, k to end. 11 sts
☐ Row 45: sl 1, k to end
☐ Row 46: sl 1, k3, sl 1, k2tog, psso, k to end. Nine sts
☐ Rows 47-52: rep Rows 2-3 three times. 13 sts
☐ Rows 53-73: rep Row 2 21 times
☐ Row 74: sl 1, skpo, k to end. 12 sts
☐ Row 75: sl 1, k to end
☐ Rows 76-93: rep Rows 74-75. Two sts
☐ Row 94: k2tog. One st
☐ Fasten off

CENTRE

Using 4mm needles and yarn A, cast on seven sts
☐ Row 1: k
☐ Row 2: sl 1, k to end
☐ Rows 3-27: rep Row 2 a further 24 times
☐ Cast off

To make up

Stitch short ends of Main piece together. Wrap over front of wreath base and pin in place. Use waste yarn to lace edges together across back of wreath base. Fasten one end of Garland to back of Wreath. Wind Garland around Wreath, finishing at starting point. Secure end. Weave in all yarn tails. Bring two ends of Bow loops to centre. Match to centre of tails and stitch together. Wrap Bow centre around to cover join and stitch in place. Attach Bow to top of Wreath. Make an i-cord 25cm long (see Knitwise) and secure ends to top of Wreath at back **LK**

Blooming marvellous

Create a truly festive display with ***Helen Free's*** *Christmas motifs*

Holly, berries, and bright red poinsettias are classic holiday symbols and these bold flowers really capture the spirit of the season. They're crocheted using a small hook and fine yarn, which allows you to create realistic shaping for the leaves and petals. Both designs use beading wire to give them more structure, but you can omit this if you prefer.

Measurements & sizes

Poinsettia: 18.5cm diameter
Holly sprig: 12cm tall x 16.5cm wide
Holly leaves: 7.5cm long x 4.5cm at widest point
Berries: 1.5cm diameter

Crochet Kit

Yarn: DMC Petra 3, (A) shade 5666 Red, (B) shade 5500 Green, one 100g ball of each
Hook: 2mm
Beading wire: copper, 28 gauge, red, green
Beads: size 8, yellow, 20
Tapestry needle

Tension Square

26 sts x 32 rows
10cm x 10cm
double crochet
2mm hook

Special abbreviations

Picot: 2ch, dc in second ch from hook
Spike: 3ch, sl st in second ch from hook, dc in next ch

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

DMC Petra is a mercerised cotton yarn which has a pretty sheen. It comes in three different weights 3, 5 and 8. Number 3, used here, is equivalent to a 4ply yarn.

Need an alternative yarn?

Scheepjeswol Larra is another mercerised cotton that could also be used for these flowers. Remember to use a smaller hook than suggested on the ball band to create a nice, tight fabric. It comes in 49 shades.

Let's Shop

DMC Petra 3 costs £4.35 per 50g (280m) ball from www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk

Scheepjeswol Larra costs £2.19 per 50g (125m) ball from 0800 488 0708, www.deramores.com

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Start crocheting here

POINSETTIA

CENTRE

NOTE: work into back loop of foundation ch

Using 2mm hook and yarn A, make two ch
☐ Rnd 1: 5dc in first ch, sl st in second ch, pm to show RS, turn. Five sts
☐ Rnd 2: 1ch (does not count as st throughout), 2dc in each dc, sl st in first ch, turn. Ten sts
☐ Rnd 3: 1ch, * 1dc in next dc, 16ch, 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in next 14 ch, 1dc in next dc, 20ch, 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in next 18 ch, rep from * four more times, sl st in first ch, turn. 180 sts

FIRST PETAL

NOTE: when working along other side of ch sts, work through both loops. Picots count as three sts

☐ ** Row 1: 1ch, 1dc in next 12 dc, sl st in next dc, turn. 13 sts
☐ Row 2: miss sl st, 1dc in next six dc, sl st in next dc, turn. Seven sts
☐ Row 3: miss sl st, 1dc in next six dc, 1dc in same dc as sl st, 1dc in next dc, sl st in next dc, turn. Nine sts
☐ Row 4: miss sl st, 1dc in next two dc, (2dc in next dc, 1dc in next two dc) twice, 1dc in same dc as sl st, 1dc in next dc, sl st in next dc, turn. 13 sts
☐ Row 5: miss sl st, 1dc in next 12 dc, 1dc in same dc as sl st, 1dc in next dc, sl st in next dc, turn. 15 sts
☐ Row 6: miss sl st, 1dc in next four dc, (2dc in next dc, 1dc in next four dc) twice, 1dc in same dc as sl st, 1dc in next dc, sl st in next dc, turn. 19 sts
☐ Row 7: miss sl st, 1dc in next 18 dc, 1dc in same dc as sl st, 1dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc, picot, working in opposite side of ch: miss one ch, 2dc in next ch, 1dc in next 12 ch, sl st in next ch, turn. 40 sts
☐ Row 8: miss sl st, 1dc in next six dc, sl st in next dc, turn. Seven sts
☐ Row 9: miss sl st, 1dc in next six dc, 1dc in same ch as sl st, 1dc in next ch, sl st in next ch, turn. Nine sts
☐ Row 10: miss sl st, 1dc in next two dc, (2dc in next dc, 1dc in next two dc) twice, 1dc in same dc as sl st, 1dc in next dc, sl st in next dc, turn. 13 sts
☐ Row 11: miss sl st, 1dc in next 12 dc, 1dc in same ch as sl st, 1dc in next ch, sl st in next ch, turn. 15 sts
☐ Row 12: miss sl st, 1dc in next four dc, (2dc in next dc, 1dc in next four dc) twice, 1dc in same dc as sl st, 1dc in next dc, sl st in next dc, turn. 19 sts
☐ Row 13: miss sl st, 1dc in next 18 dc, 1dc in same ch as sl st, 1dc in next ch. 20 sts

SECOND PETAL

☐ Row 1: miss one dc, 1dc in next ten dc, sl st in next dc, turn. 11 sts
☐ Row 2: miss sl st, 1dc in next six dc, sl st in next dc, turn. Seven sts
☐ Row 3: miss sl st, 1dc in next six dc, 1dc in same dc as sl st, 1dc in next dc, sl st in next dc, turn. Nine sts
☐ Row 4: miss sl st, 1dc in next two dc, (2dc in next dc, 1dc in next two dc) twice, 1dc in same dc as sl st, 1dc in next dc, sl st in next dc, turn. 13 sts
☐ Row 5: miss sl st, 1dc in next 12 dc, 1dc in same dc as sl st, 1dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc, picot, working in opposite side of ch: miss one ch, 2dc in next ch, 1dc in ten ch, sl st in next ch, turn. 32 sts
☐ Row 6: miss sl st, 1dc in next six dc, sl st in next dc, turn. Seven sts
☐ Row 7: miss sl st, 1dc in next six dc, 1dc in same dc as sl st, 1dc in next dc, sl st in next dc, turn. Nine sts
☐ Row 8: miss sl st, 1dc in next two dc, (2dc in next dc, 1dc in next two dc) twice, 1dc in same dc as sl st, 1dc in next dc, sl st in next dc, turn. 13 sts
☐ Row 9: miss sl st, 1dc in next 12 dc, 1dc in same ch as sl st, 1dc in next ch, miss one dc. 14 sts
☐ Rep from ** until ten petals have been worked, sl st in first ch, turn

EDGING

Working over top of wire, work as folls:
☐ 1ch, *** First petal: sl st in next dc, 1dc in next 13 dc, 1dc in same dc as sl st, 1dc in next three dc, 3dc in next dc, working in opposite

crochet *clever*

Opposites attract

When making the petals and leaves, you make the picot stitch as instructed in the Special abbreviations. You then need to work down the opposite side of the 2ch made in the picot stitch. When working into opposite side of these chain stitches, work through the back loop only, just as you did in the foundation chain.

EXCLUSIVE TO Let's knit

"The wire in the edging round is optional but will help keep the petals and leaves in place if using as a brooch or corsage."

Designer **Helen Free**

side of ch of picot: miss one ch, 2dc in next ch, 1dc in next 16 dc, dc in same ch as sl st, sl st in next dc
☐ Second petal: sl st in next dc, 1dc in next 19 dc, 1dc in same dc as sl st, 1dc in next three dc, 3dc in next dc, working in opposite side of ch of picot: miss one ch, 2dc in next ch, 1dc in next 21 dc, 1dc in same ch as sl st, sl st in next dc
☐ Rep from *** until all ten petals have been worked, sl st in first ch
☐ Fasten off
Weave in ends. Sew beads to centre

LEAVES

Using 2mm hook and yarn B, make 20ch
☐ Foundation row: 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in next 18 ch, turn. 19 sts
☐ Row 1: 1ch, 1dc in next 12 dc, sl st in next dc, turn. 13 sts
☐ Rows 2-12: work as for first petal
☐ Row 13: miss sl st, 1dc in next 18 dc, 1dc in same ch as sl st, 1dc in next ch, turn. 20 sts

EDGING

Working over top of wire, work as folls:
☐ 1ch, 1dc in next 20 dc, 1dc in same dc as sl st, 1dc in next three dc, 3dc in next dc, working in opposite side of ch: miss one ch, 2dc in next ch, 1dc in next 21 dc, 1dc in same dc as sl st, 1dc in next dc
☐ Fasten off, leaving a long tail
Use yarn tail to sew Leaves in place on back of petals

HOLLY

Using 2mm hook and yarn B, make 16 ch
☐ Row 1: 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in next 12 ch, sl st in next ch, turn. 14 sts
☐ Row 2: miss sl st, 1dc in next six dc, sl st in next dc, turn. Seven sts
☐ Row 3: miss sl st, 1dc in next four dc, sl st in next dc, turn. Five sts
☐ Row 4: miss sl st, 1dc in next two dc, picot, 1dc in next two dc, 1dc in same dc as sl st, 1dc in next five dc, sl st in next dc, turn. 14 sts
☐ Row 5: miss sl st, 1dc in next four dc, sl st in next dc, turn. Five sts
☐ Row 6: miss sl st, 1dc in next two dc, picot, 1dc in next two dc, 2dc in same dc as sl st, picot, working in opposite side of ch: miss one ch, 2dc in next ch, 1dc in four ch, sl st in next ch, turn. 19 sts
☐ Row 7: miss sl st, 1dc in next four dc, sl st in next dc, turn. Five sts
☐ Row 8: miss sl st, 1dc in next two dc, picot, 1dc in next two dc, 1dc in same ch as sl st, 1dc in next six ch, sl st in next ch, turn. 15 sts
☐ Row 9: miss sl st, 1dc in next four dc, sl st in next dc, turn. Five sts
☐ Row 10: miss sl st, 1dc in next two dc, picot, 1dc in next two dc, 1dc in same ch as sl st, 1dc in next two ch, turn. Ten sts

EDGING

Working over top of wire, work as folls:
☐ 1ch, 1dc in next five dc, 2dc in next dc, spike, working in opposite side of ch of picot from Row 10: miss one ch, 1dc in next ch, 1dc in next two dc, 2dc in same dc as sl st, 1dc in next four dc, 2dc in next dc, spike, working in opposite side of ch of picot: miss one ch, 1dc in next ch, 1dc in next two dc, 2dc in same dc as sl st, 1dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc, spike, working in opposite side of ch of picot: miss one ch, 2dc in next ch, dc in next five dc, spike, working in opposite side of ch of picot: miss one ch, 2dc in next ch, 1dc on next two dc, 2dc in same dc as sl st, 1dc in next four dc, spike, working in opposite side of ch of picot: miss one ch, 2dc in next ch, 1dc in next two dc, 1dc in same dc as sl st, 1dc in next dc, 1dc in same ch as sl st, 1dc in next ch, sl st in first ch of edging, trim wire ends to 5cm, 5dc over twisted wire
☐ Fasten off
Weave in ends
☐ Make another two leaves to match but do not fasten off third leaf
☐ Twist remaining wire together and work 10dc over it
☐ Fasten off
Weave in ends, making sure wire is firmly stitched in place

"It can be tricky to see the stitches worked in the dark green yarn, so make sure you work in a well-lit area and keep a close count of your stitches"

LK Deputy Editor **Adrienne Chandler**

WITHOUT WIRE

If you are not using wire, work as folls:
☐ 5ch after joining sl st, 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in next three ch
☐ Fasten off
Weave in ends. Make another two Leaves to match but do not fasten off third leaf
☐ Sl st to bottom of stem of two other Leaves, 10ch, 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in next eight dc
☐ Fasten off
Weave in ends

BERRIES

Using 2mm hook and yarn A, make a magic ring
☐ Rnd 1: 1ch, 5dc in magic ring, pm, pull yarn tail to close hole. Five sts
☐ Rnd 2: 2dc in each dc to end. Ten sts
☐ Rnd 3: 1dc in each dc to end
☐ Rnd 4: (miss one dc, 1dc in next dc) five times. Five sts
☐ Sl st in next dc, fasten off
Sew to leaves **LK**

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Knit School Part 12: Stranded colourwork

Adrienne Chandler introduces you to this fabulous colourwork technqiue

This method involves carrying two or more strands of yarn across the row to create multi-coloured patterns. These strands are also known as floats. As the colour changes happen frequently across the row, it is best to carry all the yarns with you as you work. This is opposed to using separate bobbins for each section – that technique is called intarsia and I will show you how to do that in the next issue. The stranded method also creates a double thickness of fabric.

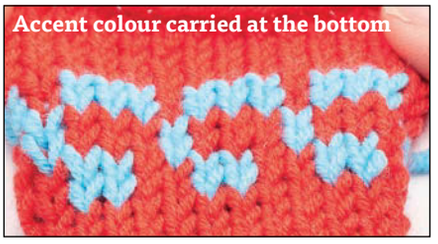
Some of the most famous stranded knitting patterns come from the Scottish island of Fair Isle. The intricate colour effects became so popular that 'Fair Isle' is now commonly used as another term for the technique. However, many cultures across the world have developed very different colourwork patterns using the same stranding method, so a more accurate description should be the 'Fair Isle technique'. There are several ways of holding the yarn for stranding, but we will show you a simple way of achieving this colourwork effect using the English method.

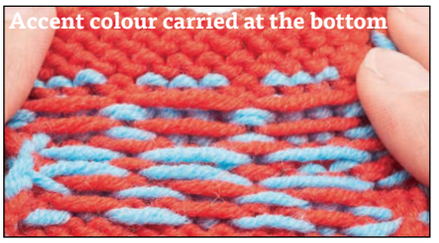
HOLDING THE YARNS

In the English style of knitting, we control the yarn with the right hand. In this technique, you will be working with two yarns in the same hand. It's important to try to maintain the tension of all the yarns you are stranding across the back of the work as this will create a more even finish. Tension your background colour with your index finger and your accent colour with your middle finger.

RELATIVE POSITIONING

When knitting with two colours, try to keep the yarns in the same relative position. Not only does this keep the back of your work looking nice and neat, but you will find that one colour stands out slightly more than the other. This is known as the dominant shade. The colour you carry underneath will be your dominant colour, so experiment when knitting your tension square to see which effect you prefer.





As this technique creates a double thickness of fabric, carry both yarns to very ends of each row to maintain an even finish.

CHANGING COLOUR ON A K ROW

Step 1: bring yarn B (blue) from underneath yarn A (red) and knit the next stitch in yarn B

Step 2: to change back to yarn A, bring yarn A over the top of yarn B and knit the stitch in yarn A

CHANGING COLOUR ON A P ROW

Keep the floats in the same relative position, bringing yarn B up from underneath yarn A, and move yarn A over the top. It can be tricky to keep your floats even on purl rows as you can't tension the yarn in the same way, but with practice, you can still get a good finish.

Back issues from Jan 2011 onwards are available on the Let's Knit app! www.letsknit.co.uk

CATCHING YOUR FLOATS

If there are more than five stitches between your colour changes, it is a good idea to catch the carried strand to prevent large loops forming. You can just twist your two colours together but the method shown here will prevent your yarns from becoming tangled.

TWO-HANDED COLOURWORK

Some knitters prefer to tension each colour on a different hand, managing the contrasting colour with the left hand using the continental knitting technique. By keeping each ball of yarn on different sides of your body, they shouldn't get tangled.

STRANDING IN THE ROUND

Many knitters prefer to do stranding in the round as it means they don't have to worry about purl rows. For projects like cardigans or even blankets, the piece can be knitted as a tube, then steeked (cut up the middle) to produce the correct shape. One of the trickiest things about stranding in the round is maintaining an even tension.

A good tip is to turn your work inside out so the wrong side is facing outwards. Work in the same direction as before – if using dpns, you will be working on the needles furthest from you. Doing this will mean the strands have to go around the outside of your tube, which is the longest route between stitches, and this prevents you from pulling too tightly.

CATCHING THE LOWER YARN

Step 1: take yarn A (blue) below yarn B (grey)

Step 2: knit the next stitch in yarn A

Step 3: take yarn B in a downwards motion so it is back lying below yarn A, knit the next stitch with yarn A

From the WS

CATCHING THE UPPER YARN

Step 1: take yarn A (blue) below yarn B (grey)

Step 2: knit the next stitch in yarn B

Step 3: bring yarn A back above yarn B, knit the next stitch with yarn B

From the WS

CHARTS

Due to the many colour changes in stranded colourwork patterns, you will often find the designs are presented in chart form. They're easy enough to follow, just remember these basic points:

- Right side rows are read from right to left and wrong rows from left to right
- Start at the bottom and work upwards
- One chart square equals one knitted stitch
- The colour of the chart square indicates which yarn to use
- If your chart has a boxed repeat, work this section the instructed number of times, before completing the remainder of the chart row

LEARN ALL ABOUT STRANDED COLOURWORK IN TRADITIONAL SCANDINAVIAN KNITTING ON PAGE 61!

Knit School is sponsored by HiyaHiya needles. Find a range of double-pointed, circular and interchangeable needles, available in stainless steel or bamboo varieties. The needles used in this tutorial were HiyaHiya's bamboo double-pointed needles and interchangeable needles with bamboo tips. The latter were from the Bamboo Ultimate Knitting Set (right), featuring 5" tips in small sizes from 2.75-4mm. It also comes with interchangeable connectors to make straight needles, five cords and stitch markers. Visit **www.hiyahiya-uk.com/retailers** for stockists and further information.

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Let's knit

ALL DOLLED UP

Let's Knit readers will be familiar with Nicola Valiji's quirky projects, and now she's offering ten readers the chance to win themselves three of her exclusive doll patterns! Each one will be provided in a downloadable PDF format, perfect for those of you who just can't wait to get started. To find out more about Nicola and her knitting, go to **www.knitola.co.uk**

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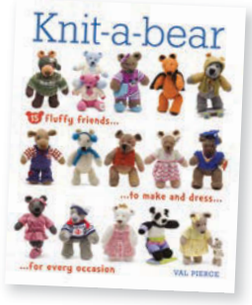

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Turn the TABLES

Keep these pages handy to guide you on your way

ABBREVIATIONS

0	no stitches, times or rows
-	no stitches, times or rows for that size
alt	alternate
approx	approximately
beg	beginning
bet	between
C4F	(cable 4 front) slip two stitches on to cable needle, hold at front of work, k2, k2 from cable needle
C4B	(cable 4 back) slip two stitches onto cable needle, hold at back of work, k2, k2 from cable needle
ch	chain stitch
ch sp	chain space
circ	circular needles
cm	centimetres
cn	cable needle
cont	continue (ing)
dc	double crochet
dc2tog	(insert hook into next stitch, yarn over hook, pull through loop) twice, yarn over hook, pull through all three loops on hook
dec	decrease (ing)
dpn(s)	double pointed needle(s)
dtr	double treble crochet
foll	following
htr	half treble crochet
inc	increase (ing)
k	knit
kfb	knit into the front and the back of the next stitch
k2tog	knit two stitches together
kwise	knitwise
lp	loop
m1	make one stitch, by picking up the horizontal loop before next stitch and knitting into the back of it
m1p	make one stitch, by picking up the horizontal loop before next stitch and purling into the back of it
meas	measure (s)
mm	millimeters
N1 (2, 3)	needle 1 (2, 3)
p	purl
pb	place bead
pfb	purl into the front and back of next st
pm	place marker
p2tog	purl two stitches together
prev	previous
psso	pass slipped stitch over and off needle
p2sso	pass two slipped stitches over and off needle
pwise	purlwise
rem	remain (ing)
rep	repeat (ing)
rev st st	reverse stocking stitch (p on RS row, k on WS row)
rm	remove marker
RS	right side
skpo	slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over
sk2po	slip next stitch purlwise, knit two together, pass slipped stitch over and off needle
sl 2, k1, p2sso	slip next two stitches knitwise at the same time, knit one, pass both slipped stitches over
sl 1	slip one stitch
sl st	slip stitch
sm	slip marker
sp (s)	space(s)
ssk	one by one slip the next two stitches knitwise. Put your left needle through the front loops of both slipped stitches and knit them together
st (s)	stitch (es)
st st	stocking stitch (k on RS row, p on WS row)
tbl	through the back loop (s)
tr	treble crochet
w&t	(on knit rows) take the yarn between the needles to the front of the work, slip the next stitch from the Left Hand needle to the Right Hand needle purlwise, take the yarn between the needles back to its original position, slip the stitch back to the Left Hand needle and turn (on purl rows) take the yarn between the needles to the back of the work, slip the next stitch from the Left Hand needle to the Right Hand needle purlwise, take the yarn between the needles back to its original position, slip the stitch back to the Left Hand needle and turn
WS	wrong side
wyib	with yarn in back
wyif	with yarn in front
yb	yarn back
yfwd	yarn forward (between knit stitches)
yo	work yfwd/yon/yrn as appropriate
yoh	yarn over hook
yon	yarn over needle (between a purl and a knit stitch)
yrn	yarn round needle (between purl stitches and between a knit and a purl stitch)
y2rn	wrap yarn twice around needle
*	repeat instructions following the asterisk as many times as instructed
() []	work instructions inside the brackets as many times as instructed

YARN WEIGHTS

YARN TYPE	STANDARD TENSION	STANDARD NEEDLE SIZE
Lace	30-33 sts-36-50 rows	2mm-3mm
4ply	28 sts-36 rows	3.25mm
DK	22 sts-28 rows	4mm
Aran	18 sts-24 rows	5mm
Chunky	14 sts-19 rows	6.5mm
Super Chunky	9 sts-12 rows	10mm

NEEDLE SIZING

UK (mm)	U.S.A	Old UK/ Canada
2	0	14
2.25	1	13
2.75	2	12
3	-	11
3.25	3	10
3.5	4	-
3.75	5	9
4	6	8
4.5	7	7
5	8	6
5.5	9	5
6	10	4
6.5	10 ½	3
7	-	2
7.5	-	1
8	11	0
9	13	00
10	15	000
12	17	-
15	-	-
16	19	-
19	35	-
20	36	-
25	50	-

TENSION HEADACHE

It's really important to knit tension square before you begin a project. Not everybody knits the same way – some knit more tightly than others – and this will affect how the stitch pattern looks and the finished size of the item. Tension squares are usually presented like this:

22 sts x 30 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
4mm needles

To knit your tension square, cast on the instructed number of stitches, in this case 22, plus five more. Then, using the needle size and same stitch pattern given, work the instructed number of rows, plus five more. Using a ruler and taking your measurements from the centre of the square, count the number of stitches and number of rows over a 10cm square. If you have more than you should do, it means your knitting is a little tight and you may need to use larger needles. Similarly, if you have fewer stitches and rows, use smaller needles to get the correct tension.

"Using the correct size of needles for the yarn weight helps to produce a taut, neat fabric"

AT A LOOSE END?

Follow these steps for weaving in any tails of yarn:

1. Thread the yarn on to a tapestry needle and work with the WS of the project facing upwards.
2. Insert the needle under the loop of each stitch, and draw it through. Work it up and down the loops of the stitches for 8cm. An alternative method is to weave through the back of the stitch, splitting the strand of yarn as you sew.
3. Cut the yarn close to the fabric.

NOTE: In colourwork, weave the yarn tails into the matching colour section.

SUBSTITUTION

There are many reasons to want to substitute the yarn given in a project, from price to colour selection, but there are some important points to remember.

- Choose a yarn with a similar tension to the suggested yarn. Match the tension given on the ball band of the yarns, as the pattern may use a different stitch. Remember to do a tension square in the new yarn before you begin.
- Consider the fibre content of the yarn and how this might affect the finished project. For example, cotton yarn will knit up very differently to a wool yarn.

- Don't forget to check the care instructions of your new yarn. Not all yarns are machine washable.
- Look at the meterage of the new yarn, rather than the weight of the ball. Not all 50g balls have the same meterage and you don't want to run short when nearing the end of your project.

ON THE BLOCKS

Blocking is the process of stretching and shaping your finished items to create the correct dimensions from the pattern and even out your stitches. It is also really useful for ensuring that pieces to be joined fit well together. There are a few different ways to achieve this, so check the information on the yarn ball band and pick the most suitable option.

Wet blocking: dampen the pieces so that they are wet through and gently squeeze out the excess water. Lay out the pieces and pin them to the correct measurements, then leave them to dry. For delicate fibres and lace projects, you can just spritz the pieces with a water spray, rather than submerging them fully.

Steaming: lay a damp cloth over your work and gently iron over the top – do not iron directly on to your knitting. Continue to iron until the cloth is dry. Another option is to gently hover over your work with the iron and apply steam until the knitting relaxes, this is good for delicate projects and textured stitches.

Pin to the desired measurements and allow to set.

Pattern UPDATES

Here at LK we try our hardest to make sure our patterns are free from errors, but sometimes they do slip through the net. Here you will find our latest pattern updates; we apologise for any inconvenience caused. If you have any queries about one of our patterns, please call **01206 508622** or email **support@letsknit.co.uk**. For further updates visit **www.letsknit.co.uk**

LK85, Xmas Santa Claus, p55

On the Arms, Row 20 should read:
k5, sl next three sts on needle pwise on to RH needle, k1, pass second, third and fourth sts on RH needle over first st on RH needle, k6

LK85, Christmas Crackers Happy Families, p6

On the adult jumpers, there is a correction to the Neckband. Work pick up row as follows (amendments shown in bold):
Using 3.25mm needles, yarn A and with RS facing, k 6 (6, 6, 8, 8, 8) sts from holder for first Sleeve, pick up and k 15 (15, 19, 20, 24, 24) sts down left Front neck, k 17 (17, 19, 19, 21, 21) sts from holder at centre Front neck, pick up and k 15 (15, 19, 20, 24, 24) sts up right Front neck, k 6 (6, 6, 8, 8, 8) sts from holder for second Sleeve, **pick up and k 5 (5, 5, 7, 7, 7) sts down Back neck shaping**, k 21 (21, 23, 25, 27, 27) sts from holder at back of neck, **pick up and k 5 (5, 5, 7, 7, 7) sts up Back neck shaping. 90 (90, 102, 114, 126, 126) sts**

Step-BY-Step

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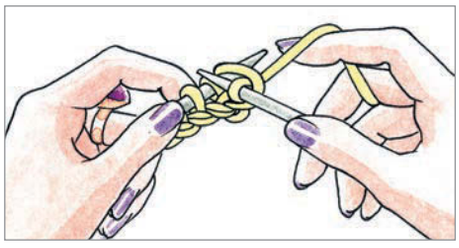
KNIT STITCH

1 Once cast on, insert the tip of the right needle upwards and from front to back into the top stitch on the left needle. The right hand needle should sit behind the left hand one. Wrap the ball end of yarn anticlockwise around the tip of the right hand needle.



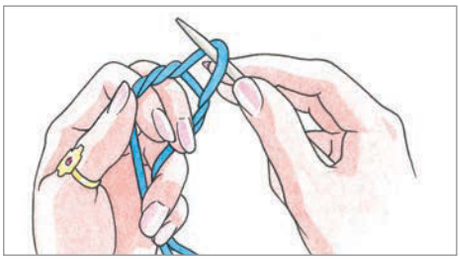
2 Using the right hand needle, pull a loop of the wrapped yarn through the original stitch to create a new one on the right hand needle. Slide the original stitch off the left hand needle. Repeat from step one. You are now knitting! The knit stitch can be combined with other stitches to create hundreds of different stitch patterns.

HELPING HAND

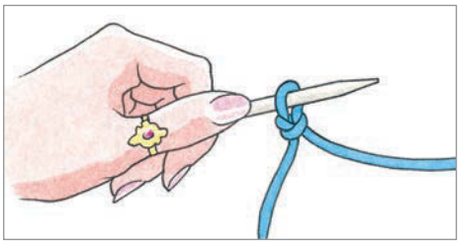
If you need a refresher on basic knitting techiques, visit our website **www.letsknit.co.uk**.
You'll also find the following step-by-step instructions in the magazine:

Learn how to knit stranded colourwork on page 89
These can be used in the following projects:
Rhubarb, p16
Winter Berry, p31
Coin Toss, p57

MAKING A SLIP KNOT



1 Holding the yarn under your left thumb, wrap it twice around your left index and middle fingers, with the second loop closer to the base of the fingers. With the backs of the fingers uppermost, insert the tip of the needle beneath the first loop and over the second, and pull the second loop under the first.

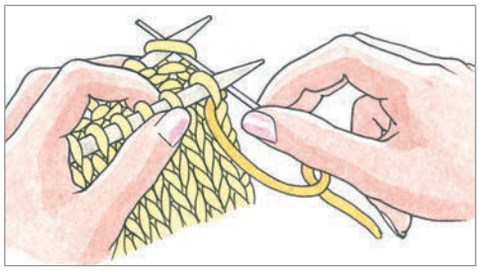


2 Remove the two fingers and gently tug on both ends of yarn to tighten the slip knot around the needle.

GRAFT THE TOE

Kitchener Stitch is the method used to acheive this. It is worked as follows:
SET UP: Before starting you need to prepare the stitches on the needle. Hold the two needles with the remaining stitches parallel. The loose end of yarn should be coming from the back needle and lying to the right of the work.

1 Thread yarn end onto a tapestry needle and insert it purlwise into the first stitch on the needle closest to you. Pull the yarn through but leave the stitch on the needle.

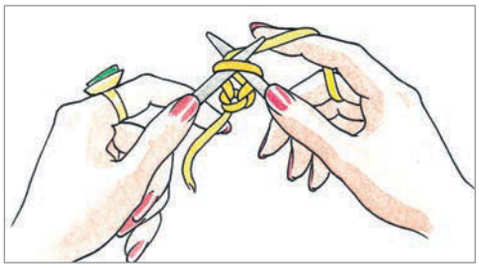


2 Insert the tapestry needle knitwise into the first stitch on the back needle and pull the yarn through, leaving the stitch on the needle.

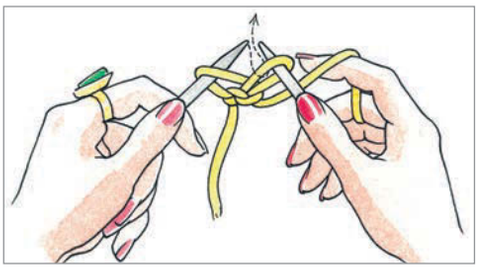
3 Having set up as shown in steps 1 and 2, repeat steps 3 and 4 until all stitches have been grafted. Insert the tapestry needle knitwise into the first stitch on the front needle and slide the stitch off. Before you pull the yarn through this stitch insert the tapestry needle into the next stitch on the front needle purlwise and pull the yarn through, this time leaving the stitch on the needle.

4 Insert the tapestry needle purlwise into the first stitch on the back needle and slide it off. Before pulling the yarn through this stitch, insert the tapestry needle into the next stitch on the back needle knitwise and pull the yarn through, leaving the stitch on the needle.

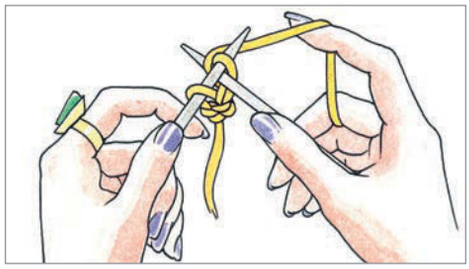
CABLE CAST ON



1 Create a slipknot on your left hand needle, pulling it taut (but not too tight). Carefully insert the right needle into the knot from front to back, passing under the left hand needle. Wrap the ball end of yarn anticlockwise around the point of the right needle.



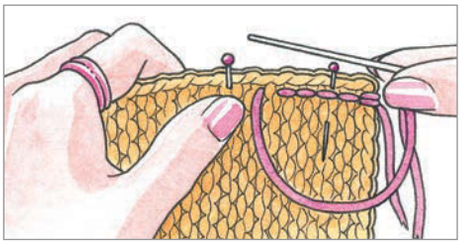
2 Pull the loop that forms back through the original stitch (knot) and insert the tip of the left hand needle into the new stitch from underneath to transfer it from the right hand to the left hand needle. There should now be two stitches on the left hand needle.



3 Insert the right needle between the two stitches on the left needle and wrap the yarn around the needle tip anticlockwise. Draw this loop through to make a stitch and slip it up and onto the left needle. Repeat this creating a new loop behind the last stitch and passing it left needle in front of the previous one.

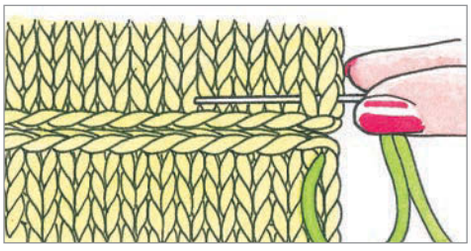
BACK STITCH

1 Pin the pieces to be joined, with the right sides together. Thread the loose end of yarn onto a tapestry needle. Start by stitching the two outer edges together, then bring the needle through the two pieces 1cm from back to front ahead of the previous stitch.

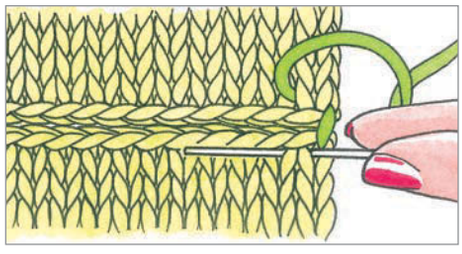


2 Push the needle back through at the position where the yarn emerged from the previous stitch. Return it to the front of the work, approx 1cm ahead of the stitch just made. Repeat this until the whole join is complete, working in a straight line.

JOINING CAST OFF EDGES

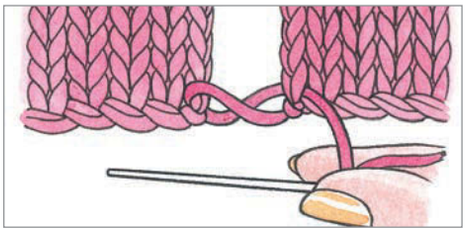


1 Lay the two pieces to be joined right side up and with the cast off edges touching. Thread a tapestry needle with the loose yarn and push this through the centre of the first stitch, and then in and out through the centres of two stitches on the opposite side.



2 Take the needle over to the first side and insert where it previously exited, bringing it out through the centre of the next stitch. Repeat this process alternating sides and stitching single stitches until the pieces are joined.

BEGINNING A SEAM



1 With the pieces placed next to each other with right side upwards, thread the yarn tail through the fabric after the first stitch, moving the needle from front to back. Then, take the needle behind the first stitch on the second piece from the back of the work to the front. The yarn will form a figure 8. Tug gently to secure.

MATTRESS STITCH

1 With the two pieces to be joined lying next to each other, hook the horizontal bar of the first stitch with the tapestry needle. Move to the other piece and hook the first horizontal bar of the stitch on that side.

2 Repeat this moving from one piece to the next and pulling the yarn to tighten the join.

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NEWSTRADE SALES Marketforce 0203 148 3300
PRINTED In England © Aceville Publications Ltd 2014

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"I love transforming techniques from the past and making something unique for today"

We've been talking to **Meredith Crawford** about blogging, creativity and being One Sheepish Girl

Credit Kelly Christine Musgraves

When Meredith started her blog One Sheepish Girl in August 2010, she used it as a way to express herself creatively through knitting, crochet and other art forms. A self-confessed shy, quiet individual, she credits her blog with giving her both the confidence to be herself and also to be comfortable in her own skin. Now with her first book, Crochet with One Sheepish Girl, under her belt, the only way is up for this craft lover!

I started knitting when I was in college. I had just finished reading the Friday Night Knitting Club and was overwhelmed with the desire to knit. So I got in my car, picked up some yarn and needles, and came straight home. I had YouTube videos pulled up on my screen and after many frustrating attempts I finally got the hang of it!

One of my closest friends, Leilani, encouraged me to start blogging about my love of knitting and crochet. I had no idea what I was doing but I decided to give it a try! I'm so glad I did. Both crafting and blogging have helped me grow in confidence and learn to love myself more than I ever have before. The ability to express myself creatively allowed me to truly be myself and feel proud of my abilities. Sharing that creativity on a blog opened me up to a whole community of people with similar passions and struggles that I never knew existed.

If I could describe my stash in one word, it would be haphazard! I have yarn coming out of every single closet, storage container, tote bag, and basket in my house. It's a little overwhelming. I would love to get it organised soon!

When it comes to projects, I always try to use yarns I have on-hand. I recently added several beautiful skeins of Madeline Tosh Vintage to my stash for my current make. I would absolutely love a skein of yarn from Rebekka Seale's Camellia Fiber Company. She has so many beautiful hand-dyed creations. I always have too many projects on the go - I just can't help myself! There are so many amazing patterns out there – I want to try them all. Currently I am working on a knitted vest. It has been a work in progress for quite a long time now... my goal is to finish it before this winter is over! Fingers crossed!

It feels surreal to be a published author! I am so honoured to have this opportunity. It was a lot of work but I couldn't be happier with the result. I learnt so much throughout the entire experience. I gathered inspiration from a colour palette of yarns, objects from my daily life, and quirky design ideas I had always wanted to try.

I am never offended when something I do is considered "granny" or old-fashioned by other people. I actually consider it a huge compliment! The art forms from the past are so beautiful and should be celebrated. I love transforming techniques from the past and making something unique for today. I can't wait to see what the art of crochet looks like in 20 years!

For more insight into Meredith's creative world, go to **www.onesheepishgirl.com**

TOP FIVE

Meredith's top choice of yarns in her stash

1. **Lion Brand Vanna's Choice** – it's a basic acrylic yarn that is surprisingly soft and comes in a wide variety of shades.
2. **Spud & Chloe Sweater** – the colours!
3. **Spud & Chloe Outer** – so soft! Perfect for chunkier projects.
4. **Madeline Tosh Vintage** – hand dyed and features the most beautiful colour variations.
5. **Debbie Bliss Rialto Chunky** – I love the weight of this yarn and the way it holds its shape when knitted or crocheted.

Meredith's new book Crochet with One Sheepish Girl is out now (published by the GMC Group, RRP £14.99).

coming *next issue*

We find out the stash secrets of **Carol Meldrum. On sale 24th December**

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